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28-PAGE NEWS SECTION

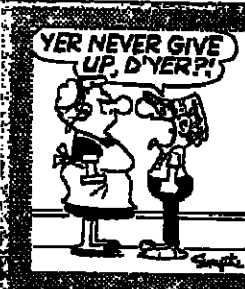
24-PAGE BROADSHEET REVIEW



Boardman
crashes out



The Hood and
the Angels



Hands off
Andy Gapp



Nationalist protesters carrying black flags line the route of a march by members of the Orange Order through the controversial lower Ormeau area of Belfast yesterday

David Rose

Sombre Ulster awaits another black day

By DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

NORTHERN IRELAND yesterday experienced its most sombre 12th of July demonstrations for a generation, as the annual Orange celebrations of the Battle of the Boyne were overshadowed by the deaths of three young boys.

Tens of thousands of Orangemen took to the streets as usual, but the mood was subdued in the wake of the killings and last week's violence.

The Orangemen and everyone else were aware that today will see the funerals of the Quinn brothers, the oldest of whom was 11, who died in the firebomb attack on their home in Ballymoney, Co Antrim. Two men are being questioned by the Royal Ulster Constabulary in connection with the incident.

A controversial Orange march through the lower Ormeau area of south Belfast passed off peacefully yesterday. Orangemen walking past hundreds of silent nationalist protesters who had lined the route with black flags.

Although Portadown Orangemen have said they will stay at Drumcree indefinitely until they are allowed to walk down the Garvaghy Road, the feeling in the Protestant community appears to be that the episode should quietly draw to a close.

A Belfast Protestant newspaper said it had received calls from a number of Orangemen who said they had decided not to march because of their disapproval of the violence, especially the deaths of the Quinns.

In a rearguard action aimed at limiting the damage to the hardline Unionist cause, both Portadown Orangemen and the Rev Ian Paisley, of the Democratic Unionists, suggested the incident might not have been a straightforward sectarian attack. Security forces, however, insisted that they still regarded it as a sectarian arson attack.

Portadown's district master, Harold Gracey, said: "They gave it out as a sectarian murder, but there's some doubt about that." Another spokesman, David Jones, said: "Our investigation would seem to show there were other forces involved in those horrendous deaths and there has been an attempt to link them to the Orange Order that is not justified." Mr Paisley added: "I think that if the press waits a few days they will find there is very little relationship between those deaths and what happened at Drumcree. The IRA carried out far worse murders than we had at Ballymoney over and over again."

At one Orange demonstration, the Rev William Bingham, who on Sunday said the Drumcree protest should be called off, was heckled by members of the hardline Spirit of Drumcree organisation. The Army yesterday made safe a 500lb bomb which had been left in a car near the courthouse at Newry, Co Down. The device is believed to be the work of a renegade republican group.

Brown's £25bn spending spree

FREE ADMISSION to national museums is expected to be extended as part of the £25bn-plus bonus for public spending to be announced today.

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, will couple today's announcement of the comprehensive spending review - described last night by Whitehall sources as "bigger than the Budget" - with a tough message on pay restraint.

In return for extra spending on health, education and pensions, the Government wants the pay review bodies, covering 1.2 million public-sector workers, to be kept in check with a 2.25 per cent real-terms in-

BY DAVID LISTER
and COLIN BROWN

crease in spending for the next three years.

Poorer pensioners are to be given an automatic top-up of more than £10 per week with their income support merged into the state pension. The aim is to ensure that it reaches the estimated 1 million pensioners who do not claim the benefit, but it will be seen as the first step towards targeting increases to the worst off.

Amid fears that the City will see the spending package as a relaxation of the Government's tough stance on public spend-

ing, the Prime Minister's office underlined the message last night that the package involves "tough choices" and the extra money for modernisation will have "strings attached".

The Government's spending plans will include a boost for the arts with a review of strategy to be outlined next week by Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary.

The Budget earlier this year put money aside to safeguard free admission to the National and Tate galleries and British Museum for 12 months. The new money to be announced today could either be used to extend that guarantee for a full three years, or alternatively to

extend free admission to other national museums that charge. These include the Victoria and Albert, Science, Natural History and Imperial War museums. A source said last night: "Increasing access to museums is a priority for the Culture Department, and the Government as a whole is sympathetic."

The Prime Minister's official spokesman said today's statement would "lay to rest the rubbish" circulating about splits between Mr Brown and Tony Blair, who agreed the final plans at Chequers on Saturday. It will confirm the sums, expected to be more than £20bn extra for health and education

over the next three years, but with conditions attached.

The Prime Minister, who will hold ministers to account for their spending plans at quarterly meetings, will tell his colleagues in the foreword to the "Investing in Reform" document: "Money on education and health has been hard won. There is an obligation to those spending it to do so wisely."

His spokesman said: "Resources are tied specifically to reform. It is definitively and definitely New Labour."

Mr Blair will say: "We will invest huge extra sums but there must be improved teaching, more modern classrooms,

smaller class sizes, and every school linked to the Internet. On health, there will be massive investment but in return we will require higher quality care, more modern equipment, an overhaul of the computer system and a cut in waiting lists."

A cabinet committee chaired by the Chancellor will act as a watchdog to ensure the conditions for higher spending are met. Ministers failing to deliver will see their budgets cut until the conditions are met.

Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, last night announced the first instalment with £1.1bn investment for research in a boost to her budget

designed to show that she has not lost out against Mr Brown.

David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education, will tomorrow announce details of the education package, followed on Thursday by the Secretary of State for Health, Frank Dobson, and by Harriet Harman, Secretary of State for Social Security, on Friday.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, Chris Smith, and John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, will make statements next week on the spending plans on law and order, the arts, roads and public transport.

Leading article, Review, page 3

Taxpayers' money is being spent on lobbying

MILLIONS OF pounds of public money is being poured into lobbying firms each year. The Independent has learned.

As Lord Neill's Committee on Standards in Public Life moved towards an investigation into relations between the Government and the lobbying industry, the extent of its links with the public sector were becoming clear.

About £5m is spent annually with public affairs consultancies by local authorities, government agencies and even one central government department. The industry earns a further £8m from privatised organisations such as train operating companies and utilities.

By FRAN ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

About a fifth of lobbyists' clients are from the public sector or privatised companies. Public bodies often pay less for the services of lobbyists - an industry with a total annual turnover of £70m.

Among those who employed lobbyists during the last six months were the Department for International Development and the Government's Environment Agency.

Both Clare Short, Secretary of State for International Development (DfID), and the Deputy Prime Minister, John

Prescott, whose department is responsible for the environment, have criticised the use of public money to pay lobbying firms.

Last Friday Mr Prescott said it was "unbelievable" that the Audit Commission, the public sector watchdog, should have hired Lawson Lucas Mendelsohn which claimed it had privileged access to government information. The firm carried out "political monitoring" for the commission but its contract is being reviewed.

Neither the Environment Agency nor the DfID has employed the firms to lobby the Government. The agency pays £600 per month to Cligette Westminster to check on Hansard.

government announcements and parliamentary questions which might affect it.

The DfID's contract with the Public Policy Unit was set up to advise the Slovakian government on European Union membership.

Iain Dale, a former lobbyist who is compiling a directory of political lobbying, said the use of the firms by arms of government was worrying.

"Lobbyists shouldn't portray themselves as an extension of government and if they are working for government there is a risk of that happening. I do think it's insidious," he said.

David Aaronovitch, Review, page 3

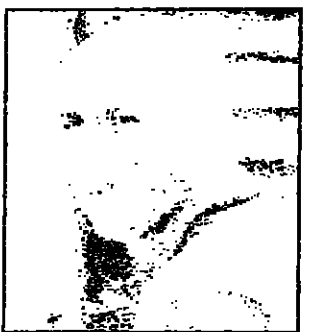
Ronaldo had fit hours before World Cup final

By MARK BURTON

RONALDO, THE footballer on whom Brazil's hopes of winning a fifth World Cup rested, said yesterday he had suffered a convulsive fit hours before playing against France in the final on Sunday night.

Mystery surrounding his poor performance in the match in Paris, which France won 3-0, was heightened by his first being left out of Brazil's team but then reinstated. Yesterday, Ronaldo said in a Brazilian TV interview that he had suffered a fit during Sunday afternoon.

"It was a tremendous scare," he said. "We lost the World Cup but I won another cup - my life."



Ronaldo: 'Scare'

He added: "I went to sleep and then it seems I had a fit for 30 or 40 seconds. I woke up then and my whole body was in pain. But with time the pain

got less and I relaxed a bit."

Brazil's team doctor, Lidio Toledo, said he rushed Ronaldo to hospital where he underwent several tests, including a check on his heart, but no problem was detected. "Everything was normal so I came to the conclusion that it had to be some nervous fit," Mr Toledo said on television.

Ronaldo said he decided to play. "I went out there to help the team," he said.

There had been an allegation that Nike, which sponsors the player, had insisted that Ronaldo played in the final. Nike dismissed the story as "absolutely false".

Lucky to be alive, page 28

INSIDE
FULL CONTENTS
PAGE 2
TODAY'S TV
REVIEW, PAGE 24

HOME NEWS
A gamekeeper killed 127 badgers and chronicled their deaths, a court heard
PAGE 2

HOME NEWS
A new DIY testing kit to check a child's paternity has sparked calls for it to be banned
PAGE 5

POLITICS
The House of Lords will be urged to think again today about a rebellion on tuition fees
PAGE 8

FOREIGN NEWS
Silvio Berlusconi was convicted of corruption in another legal setback to Italy's former premier
PAGE 12

BUSINESS
Colt Telecom is to issue £600m of debt and shares to serve another 14 European cities
PAGE 16

SPORT
Ian Wright, Arsenal's all time leading goalscorer, has signed for London rivals, West Ham
PAGE 25

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'This is the France we want to see: valiant, stubborn and multi-racial'

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

FRANCE HAS fallen in love with football. More importantly, France has fallen in love with itself again.

It has looked in the television mirror of the World Cup and seen that it has white faces, brown faces and black faces; and that they are handsome faces; and that they are successful faces.

In other words, it has seen the real multi-racial France, which has been deliberately swept out of the capital city in the last 20 years and which is seldom reflected on television or in politics, except as yet another source of anxiety.

After five years of "morosité ambiante" (encompassing gloom) about the future of France, the 3-0 victory of "les hommes d'Aimé Jacquet" in the World Cup Final has been turned into a national-political event. It has been declared so not by the politicians (who are still scrambling to catch up); not even by the media; but by the people of France themselves.

The 1,500,000 people who packed the two miles along the Champs Elysees yesterday to see their conquering heroes in the middle of a working day were not football fans. The average gate of the entire French first division on a good weekend is less than 200,000 people.

Just like the huge crowds which celebrated the semi-final victory last week and the Final victory over Brazil on Sunday night, these were French men and women (and children and babies) of all races and social classes.

Unlike the late-night revelries, this was a family festival: babies in prams with their faces painted red, white and blue; poodles with flags pinned on their collars. The open-topped double-decker bus carrying the French squad took almost three hours to forge through the good-natured but ecstatic crowds.

Nadège, 26, came with her two-year old son, her sister, nephew, aunt and cousin. She had left her Portuguese-born husband, who is not a football fan, at work - they are both the concierges in a chic building in the Faubourg Saint Honore quarter.

She said: "I came to work this morning wearing my French football strip, which amused all the lawyers and the judges who work in my building. But why weren't they wearing their own football shirts?" National hysteria, it seems, has its limits.

The phenomenal response of France to its team's success has been, at one level - and self-consciously so - a revolt against the cheap anti-immigrant propaganda of the political far-right.

The great hero of the crowd, whites, browns and blacks alike, is Zinedine Zidane, scorer of two goals against Brazil, born in Marseilles of parents from the Kabyle minority in Algeria.

But this was also - less consciously - a revolt against the anti-national, anti-flag (and anti-football) posturings of the politically correct intellectual Left.

France has suffered grievous economic problems in the last five years (now lifting, which is another reason for the buoyancy of the crowds). But it has also been plunged into repetitive bouts of national and self-flagellatory soul-searching about the recent and not so recent past, from the Dreyfus case, through Vichy, to May 1968.

The World Cup success was an opportunity to shout once



People of every race and class rise up to embrace the French revelation and greet their new national heroes

Peter Macdarmid

again their gut pride in France. It was an opportunity to wave the tricolour - many young Arabs doing so for the first time - while at the same time dragging it from the hands of Jean-Marie Le Pen and his racist National Front.

The odious Mr Le Pen claimed at the weekend that the national outpouring of joy at the football team's unexpected success was somehow orchestrated by him. It showed, he said, that French patriotism was alive. He, typically, spoiled the effect by going on to say that the World Cup was a "detail of history", the same phrase he has twice used to dismiss the Holocaust.

It is easy - and perhaps necessary in some degree - to be

cynical about the events of the last few days. The fact that France won the World Cup with the most ethnically diverse team in the competition - African, Arab, Pacific island, West Indian, Armenian, Breton, Norman, Basque, Provençal - will not change the social and economic realities of late 20th century France.

The level of unemployment among Arab and black young people in the "quartiers difficiles", or inner suburbs, of big cities such as Paris, Lyon and Lille is still 50 per cent or more. It is unlikely to change soon.

But France has always been a country in which politics is made in the streets. The sheer scale of the national outpouring of joy since last Wednesday

has been, inescapably, a political act. As *Le Monde* said yesterday, it is not particularly apparent what the act means or what it will lead to. But it is clear that it marks "a change of epoch".

The fact that *Le Monde*, the daily bible of the literary, political and intellectual classes, led its front page on the result of a football match yesterday is significant in itself. The newspaper refused to cover sport until two or three years ago, but has published an excellent daily supplement on every day of France-98.

France in the 1980s and early 1990s, wrote *Le Monde's* editor, Jean-Marie Colombani, was symbolised by a football-entrepreneur-turned-politician, Bernard Tapie. Among other sins, Mr Tapie bribed an opposing team to allow his Olympique Marseille an easy run to the league title.

Tapie, a protégé of François Mitterrand, symbolised the corruption of politics by both right and left - "les années-fric", the "easy money years", when everything in France seemed to be for sale.

It was these years which caused the deep cynicism, almost nihilism, of public attitudes in France in the mid and late 1990s. It was also the corruption of mainstream politics which allowed a free run for Mr Le Pen.

Mr Colombani believes, and hopes, that the World Cup victory may mark the beginning of the "Jacquet" years: an era in which France judges its politicians, and itself, in the light of the qualities ingrained by Aimé Jacquet into the French squad - hard work, togetherness, racial harmony, a rejection of the high-flown and pretentious, and a rejection of the concept - deeply embedded, not only in French sport - that France is somehow doomed to defeat, despite the fact, or even because of the fact, that it is

more cultured than the rest of the world.

Jacquet, to the fury of the French Metropolitan football commentators, built a hard-working "club" team, founded on the skills of players such as Zidane, and especially on the hard work, speed, muscle and efficiency of its defence and

midfield. The fact that football is the only area of French life in which strikers are in short supply made his choices somewhat easier.

As the news magazine *Marianne* pointed out, the French team's success is also based on the kind of free-market liberalism which French political

commentators of both right and left perpetually intone against.

The new sharpness and hardness - and will to win - of the French team is partly Jacquet's doing; but it is also a product of the fact that almost the entire squad plays for the largest clubs in the Italian,

English, Spanish and German leagues.

France, as a soccer nation, blossomed by opening itself to the world, and embracing foreign influences, not closing in on itself.

"This team is France. But the improved version," said *Marianne*. "This is the France we would love to see: valiant, stubborn, enterprising, multi-racial but accepting its 'métissage' (mongrel nature) as a gentle fact of life."

Does any of this matter? In the real world?

Quite possibly it does. France seemed to be on the brink of a small economic boom in any case: three per cent growth forecast this year; the stock-market at record levels; inflation scarcely perceptible.

The "animal spirits" of consumer confidence unleashed by the World Cup could inflate this into a big boom.

Those young Arabs and blacks who have identified with a French team containing Zidane or Thierry Henry or Marcel Desailly, are identifying with a French institution for the first time.

The latent racism in French society - the most racist society in Europe according to a government survey published last week - is already receding, despite Mr Le Pen's best efforts.

Le Pen was 70 last month. His personal power is already waning; it is not far-fetched to hope that the Jacquet effect, or Zidane effect, could knock a couple of points off the NF vote in the European and city elections next year.

Euphoria, like any psychological high, fades. But the scale of the French popular reaction to the World Cup victory suggests a profound psychological desire on the part of the French to put aside their differences, emerge from their long bad mood, and move forward as a nation.

If so, there is every reason for mild rejoicing at the other end of the Channel Tunnel.



The victorious squad approach the Arc de Triomphe

Teacher injures 82 revellers

BY JOHN LICHFIELD

THE celebrations of France's World Cup victory almost turned to tragedy early yesterday when a car accelerated into the crowds on the Champs Elysees in the centre of Paris, scattering and injuring scores of people.

Police said 82 were knocked down and injured, 11 seriously. The victims had broken legs and head and abdominal injuries. None was in critical condition yesterday.

The driver of the car, a middle-aged woman, and her male passenger, ran from the scene

after being attacked by other members of the crowd.

She was later identified and arrested by police, who said she was a 44-year-old school-teacher with a history of slight psychiatric problems.

After the incident, which happened just before 3am, there were scuffles between police and groups of Arab youths.

Until then, the celebrations had been frantic but broadly peaceful. The woman was trying to cut across the Champs

Elysees, despite the dense crowds. Youths began rocking the vehicle and banging on its roof.

The driver appears to have panicked and accelerated into the crowd, turning the vehicle on to its side.

There were also isolated incidents with young men of North African origin from the troubled inner suburbs of Paris during yesterday afternoon's celebrations.

Groups of youths tried to push their way to the front as the French team's team coach

inched through the huge crowds. After taking three hours to push through only half the avenue, the double-deck open coach was forced to turn aside before reaching the Arc de Triomphe, disappointing thousands of people.

Organisers said the crowds at the top of the avenue were too thick to enter safely and that, in any case, the players were exhausted.

On both days, police handling of the events, though deliberately low-key, was open to question.

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Similar types of numbers will be grouped together with the same prefix, enabling you to immediately recognise the type of number you're calling. Mobiles and pagers, for example, will begin with 07. (The table on the left gives you a broad view of how all the numbers will be grouped.)

The Big Question: when will The Big Number happen?

Well, some changes have already started with new mobile numbers beginning with 07. And you'll be hearing more from us about 08 and 09 over the coming weeks. The main changes will be phased between now and the year 2001, so there'll be plenty of time to prepare.

In the meantime, you'll find details of the number changes on our website which you can visit on www.numberchange.org or call our freephone helpline – 0808 22 4 2000.

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02	New Area Codes
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05	Reserved for Future Use
06	Reserved for Future Use
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08	Future Use
09	Future Use
10	Future Use
11	Future Use
12	Future Use
13	Future Use
14	Future Use
15	Future Use
16	Future Use
17	Future Use
18	Future Use
19	Future Use

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مكتبة الامم

Paternity test by post condemned

THE AD APPEARED in the Sunday Sport, sandwiched between those for Viagra and for sex counselling. It read: "Whose child is it? Are you really the father? Ring this number for confidential DNA testing."

Yesterday, the phone number of the Kent-based agency was on answerphone, promising callers information in a plain envelope. But, while the managers of the agency offering postal paternity testing for £298 laid low, MPs and experts rose in unison to condemn them.

The test - targeted at men who have "nagging doubts" on whether a child is really theirs - involves taking a swab from the child's mouth and comparing its DNA fingerprint with a similar swab from the supposed father - with a five-week wait for the result. But experts said yesterday the swab was less accurate than a blood test, and inadmissible in court.

The DNA Testing Agency says in its advertisements: "The curious, suspicious or disbelieving who just want

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
AND CHARLES ARTHUR

peace of mind, can now conduct paternity checks in the comfort of their own home. Do-it-yourself DNA tests are now available in Britain."

Yesterday the Human Genetics Advisory Commission (HGAC) criticised the agency, and David Hinchliffe, chairman of the Commons Health Select Committee, called for the tests to be banned. He accused the agency of exploiting the divisions between separated parents over Child Support Agency maintenance demands.

"It's the children who could suffer most, I think (the agency) is blundering into a very dangerous area. They are enticing fathers ... to carry out tests without any reference whatsoever to the child's feelings, or discussion with the mother."

Mr Hinchliffe added: "I am sure they (DNA Testing Agency) must realise that the likely consequences are damaged and destroyed relationships."

The Department of Health (DoH) said yesterday that the Advisory Committee on Genetic Testing - which last year issued a code of practice for firms giving genetic tests for specific illnesses - would investigate the agency.

Paul Debenham, managing director of the genetic testing company University Diagnostics (UDL) that offers a court-accredited paternity test via GPs for £447, said: "Ethically, trying to find out the parentage of a child without the partner's knowledge is not something we'd encourage. If the outcome is negative, then it will lead to legal proceedings, and you aren't doing anybody any good by being underhand."

UDL only accepts tests with samples and photographs from both parents and the child, from the responsible doctor.

Professor Martin Richards, director of the Centre for Family Research at Cambridge University, said people should not be denied access to the truth, but added: "I don't see how any commercial ... organisation can really determine where a sample ... comes from."

Sir Colin Campbell, chairman of the HGAC, warned that paternity testing raised complex ethics which the agency seemed to have ignored. "Should they ask or tell the biological mother? Should they seek the consent of the child?"

A DoH spokeswoman said that the DoH could intervene as the HGAC code of practice stressed the importance of providing "appropriate consultation and counselling" when offering genetic testing.

A DNA Testing Agency spokesman, based in Keston, Kent, was earlier reported to have said that the tests had been taken up by equal numbers of men and women. He added: "We are giving people the opportunity to do private testing. There is nothing deceitful or underhand about it."



The intrepid Dr Steve Hindley with his wife, Sue, and their three children, James, 10, Alexandra, 7, and Bryony, 3

GP saves life with rusty drill

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

IN A dramatic episode destined to become part of Australian outback folklore, a British GP performed life-saving brain surgery with a rusty hand-drill borrowed from a school shed.

Deep in the Australian bush, hundreds of miles from the nearest specialised hospital, Dr Steve Hindley used the woodwork drill to drain a blood clot on the brain of an injured sportsman.

The Australian Rules football player had been brought into the tiny local hospital having collapsed after colliding head-on with another player.

"It got to the stage when there was only one thing left to do and that was to drill a hole

quickly became clear that he was bleeding in his skull and he wasn't in a good way. It was either do the operation however we could, or let him die," said Manchester-born Dr Hindley, who previously practised in Cornwall.

"I asked them to find me a drill and initially they brought one from the town's dentist but we couldn't get it to work so then I said I didn't care what sort of drill they got me."

Mr McGlinn's girlfriend and team mates launched a desperate search and eventually found an old drill lying in the tool shed of the local school.

Having sterilised the drill bit, Dr Hindley liaised with the

neurosurgery unit at Sir Charles Gairdner hospital in Perth. He then carefully drilled a hole into Mr McGlinn's left temple to drain the blood.

"The boy's condition deteriorated so quickly if he had not done what he did he would definitely have died before they got him to hospital," said hospital spokeswoman Priscilla Fouracres.

John Miles, senior neurosurgeon at the Walton Centre in Liverpool, said that speed would have been vital.

"A blood clot like this is the biggest threat in any sort of injury in which a skull fracture has occurred. Quick action is totally critical - you can go from

being completely awake to being dead in under an hour," he said.

Dr Hindley, who is moving to Tasmania with his family, was modest about the operation, which took place two weeks ago.

"It's nice to have helped but it's very embarrassing to be given the credit for something that was a team effort. Other people did a lot to save his life, it wasn't just me," he said.

But Mr McGlinn's father was less guarded. "It is the best bush medicine we have ever seen," he said. "The doctor saved our son. He's a real hero. We will never be able to thank him enough."

DIY TESTING

ONLY A handful of genetic tests are available by post in Britain today - but they have already been the trigger for a number of abortions.

The number of tests on offer is also sure to increase rapidly as technologies for testing improve, and new disease-causing genes are identified. What the testing companies really want is more genes to test for. The principal genetic test now available is for cystic fibrosis during pregnancy. In some cases results have led the parents to decide on an abortion.

Cystic fibrosis is less common than conditions like Down's Syndrome, which

affects about 1 in 700 children. The testing companies are thus looking for other multiple-gene conditions that they can test for using new technologies such as the "DNA laboratory on a chip" - which would essentially test for many different genes at once from a pinprick sample.

There are plans soon to introduce a test for a gene called cyp2D6 which, when faulty, renders ineffective drugs like painkillers and antidepressants. Other prenatal genetic tests could include "fragile X" syndrome, which affects about 1 in 4,000 boys and leads to mental retardation.

Scientist claims officials destroyed work on BSE

A SCIENTIST claimed yesterday that his work was destroyed by government officials when he could have established a link between mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, and the fatal human strain of "new variant" Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD) six years before the connection was confirmed.

Dr Harash Narang, a microbiologist, claimed in evidence to the BSE inquiry in London that if work he started in 1988 had not been terminated, "many lives could have been saved". One of the Government's most outspoken critics over BSE, he maintained in a 42-page statement that his attempts to investigate the problem were consistently blocked by officials.

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

But many of his claims were themselves attacked in a 12-page rebuttal from the Public Health Laboratory Service (PHLS). Dr Narang's former employer, against which he has filed a High Court lawsuit. The PHLS said it was not apparent that Dr Narang's experiments would have provided any information about a BSE-CJD link.

BSE was first identified in British cattle in 1986. A "classic" form of CJD was recognised earlier this century, but vCJD has only been formally recognised since 1996. So far 27 Britons have died of it.

Dr Narang said that he first encountered "atypical" cases of CJD in 1988, when he was working

for the PHLS in Newcastle. That year, he began experiments to trace the source of the infective agent, by injecting hamsters and mice with brain tissue from dead CJD victims and observing the effect.

"By 1990, these experiments were well advanced and were giving clear preliminary indications that they were CJD cases infected with the BSE strain," said Dr Narang.

But in the midst of the experiments, Dr Narang alleged, he was ordered to destroy all the animals. He claimed that when he refused, they were destroyed anyway. However, the PHLS said the move was part of its own restructuring and that Dr Narang was informed.

Dr Narang said: "Had these experiments been completed in

their entirety and had the preliminary indications been confirmed we would have been in no doubt about the link between BSE and CJD and many lives could have been saved."

Dr Narang was made redundant from the PHLS in 1994 after two sets of disciplinary hearings, one for breaches of safety rules involving CJD-infected material and the other over complaints about his investigations into the family backgrounds of CJD victims.

In the conclusion to his statement he maintained that the handling of the BSE crisis was "influenced by the preferences and prejudices of civil servants whose main concern was to protect the well being of the farming industry ... and to protect their own position".

IN BRIEF

Firefighter admits making hoax 999 calls to help colleagues

A LIVERPOOL firefighter yesterday admitted making hoax 999 calls to earn his colleagues overtime payments. Paul Roberts, 32, earlier denied the allegations, but yesterday changed his pleas in a re-trial. He was remanded on bail for sentencing.

Inquiry into operation death

AN INVESTIGATION is being held after an 18-stone woman died following an operation to staple her stomach and reduce her appetite.

Marilyn Williams, 44, a civil servant and mother of two children, developed complications in hospital and died six days after surgery on 5 July, six days after she had been admitted to Llandough Hospital, Cardiff.

Boxer Benn in 127mph speed ban

FORMER WORLD boxing champion Nigel Benn was banned from driving for a month yesterday when he admitted speeding in his Mercedes car down the M5 at 127mph. The 35-year-old from Beckenham, Kent, was also fined £335 with £35 costs by magistrates at Taunton in Somerset.

BBC wins World Cup viewers

THE BBC'S coverage of the World Cup final between France and Brazil was watched by more than double the number of viewers to ITV. The BBC was watched by an average 15.7m people. ITV broadcast Brian Moore's last game as a commentator after 30 years and pulled in 6.5m. The total audience was 24.1m across both channels.

Major's family 'hired hitman'

BY CATHY COMERFORD

THE WIFE, children and employee of a wealthy retired army major hired a hitman to kill him, fearing their secret lavish life-styles, which he unwittingly funded, were about to be revealed, a court was told yesterday.

Geoffrey Leeming, 63, was stabbed through the heart in October 1996 in the garage of the bungalow in Haxby, near York, he shared with his wife, Jackie.

Mrs Leeming, 55, is accused along with her children Jayne, 30, and Stephen, 33, and Malcolm Herbert, 37, the secretary of the company they owned, with conspiracy to murder and fraudulent trading.

Prosecuting counsel, Paul Worsley QC, told York magistrates' court yesterday that the group wanted Mr Leeming out of the way because they believed he would veto their extravagances which he had

unwittingly helped finance to the tune of £200,000.

Mr Worsley said Mr Herbert, the company secretary of York, covered up the illegal transactions and payments to the accused and was involved in the murder plot because he was afraid he would be made redundant.

He said that although the family-owned drainage business was on the brink of liquidation, large amounts of money continued to be withdrawn at the expense of creditors.

Jayne Leeming, a single mother on the dole, signed a contract to buy a £160,000 house the day after her father's death. Mr Worsley said, Stephen Leeming bought himself a £25,000 sports car, although he knew the firm was in financial trouble. Mr Worsley said.

The case continues.

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Millionaire to turn dons into tycoons

DONS AT Cambridge University and businessmen are drawing up plans for a new academy to make British scientists and engineers more entrepreneurial.

The American-style academy of entrepreneurship would help high-flying scientists use their skills in business as well as university research.

Discussions are taking place involving Hermann Hauser, the millionaire founder of the home computer firm Acorn. The idea has been developed through the Cambridge Network of dons and businessmen.

Mr Hauser wants to make future scientists more entrepreneurial. He left Cambridge's Cavendish laboratory with a PhD in physics and regrets that there was no course on topics such as cash flow, stock control and how to set up high-tech companies in global markets.

The academy, similar to the entrepreneurship academy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, may be part of a new science complex.

The Cambridge Network concluded in a report that the university "had been weak in the last 20 years in creating the bal-

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

ance between innovative brilliance and entrepreneurial skill".

Sir Alec Broers, the university's vice-chancellor, would attract scientists aged around 28-30 with PhDs and experience in industry. Entrepreneurial skills might be taught as part of existing science courses as well as on full-time courses. There might also be courses for local entrepreneurs.

Although the new academy may be on university land, it will not necessarily be part of the university.

Cambridge university only recently established a management school after years of argument about whether business was a true academic discipline. However, Sir Alec Broers, the university's vice-chancellor, former IBM executive and co-founder of the Network, is an enthusiast for the scheme.

A spokeswoman for the university said: "This is a Cambridge Network initiative... the university will be interested in hearing more as it progresses."

At Oxford University, Richard Branson's Virgin At-

lantic is sponsoring a fellowship at Templeton College to compile a list of the 100 most entrepreneurial firms. Oxford has a business school but no academy for entrepreneurs.

Both universities have seen their links with the world of business increase rapidly during recent years. Last year, Microsoft announced that it intended to establish a research arm in Cambridge hiring 50 computer specialists from all over the world. One of the aims was to create a "Silicon Fen", a breeding ground for high-tech companies and expertise.

Extra government funding for education has failed to find its way into the classroom, according to a survey published yesterday. While ministers provided an extra £1bn for day-to-day spending last April, a cash increase of around 5.7 per cent across the authorities covered by the survey, school budgets have increased by just 3.4 per cent.

The survey of 33 local education authorities from the National Union of Teachers follows another 10 days ago which showed that 2,000 teaching jobs have been lost this year.



All the world's a stage, and for Tag Mhizha his role is Shylock in the Merchant of Venice production being put on by 500 children from 22 London schools at the Globe theatre in London. The children also made banners to go on show at the Tate Gallery. *Katpesh Lathigra*

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Hypnotist faces £200,000 claim

PAUL MCKENNA, the hypnotist, yesterday faced a £200,000 damages claim by a man who says he turned into a frightened and aggressive schizophrenic after taking part in one of the star's five stage shows.

The High Court in London heard that Christopher Gates, a man with no family history of mental instability, volunteered to be hypnotised by Mr McKenna at the Swan Theatre in High Wycombe, Bucks, four years ago.

Nine days later, Mr Gates, now 30, of Downley, High Wycombe, was admitted to hospital suffering from an acute schizophrenic episode and had been unable to work since.

Mr McKenna was in court to hear Mr Gates's counsel, Anthony Scrivener, QC, accuse him of responsibility for his client's plight.

Mr Scrivener told Mr Justice Toulson: "The defendant has no medical qualifications and no formal hypnotherapy qualifications, but holds himself out as an expert."

Mr McKenna, of Kensington, London, denies negligence and contends that Mr Gates's illness was not caused by hypnosis.

Mr Gates, who worked as a French polisher, was among a group of people selected from

BY MIKE TAYLOR

volunteers to be hypnotised during the show on 10 March 1994.

While in a trance, he was made to believe that he was, among other things, a ballet dancer, Mick Jagger, an interpreter for aliens from outer space, a contestant on *Blind Date*, an orchestral conductor and a naughty schoolboy.

With his girlfriend Beverly Gibbs in the audience, he reacted to suggestions that he was frightened of brooms, was walking on the moon and had special glasses to see people naked.



Paul McKenna, accused of making subject ill

Mr Scrivener said Ms Gibbs would tell the court that, after the show, his client could remember nothing of what had happened. He seemed unusually quiet and did not get to sleep until 4.30am.

The following day his worrisome supervisor noticed a change of personality. He started showing signs of aggression, giggled for no apparent reason - even at the news that there were to be redundancies - and his work deteriorated.

During the nights that followed, Ms Gibbs reported, her partner could not sleep, became scared and said his head was killing him or that something in his head was destroying him.

She contacted Mr McKenna who spoke to Mr Gates on the telephone. He said Mr Gates needed help from a therapist and gave her a number to ring.

Mr Gates was admitted to hospital on 19 March and stayed there until 13 April.

He was taken off medication after six months, but had to go back on drugs when paranoid symptoms returned.

Mr Scrivener said Mr McKenna became interested in hypnosis in 1985 and realised he had a knack that could be used for entertainment.

The hearing was adjourned until today.

Schools in 'Big Brother' fear

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

DATA PROTECTION watchdogs expressed concern last night about government plans for a national computer database of children's exam and test results.

The system would allocate a number to every child and register his or her performance throughout school. Ministers hope it would allow parents to see how much schools improve pupils' performance - a so-called "value added" measure.

But the Data Protection Registrar has warned that a system which allocates a number to every pupil could become a "Big Brother" open to abuse if it is extended too far.

Such a scheme requires schools and local authorities to keep track of pupils if they move or change schools.

The system could, however, have important implications for the Government's drive to promote lifelong learning, by allowing students to keep track of mix-and-match courses taken throughout their lives.

Ministers believe computer technology will create a more

flexible education system to attract millions of people back to college or university.

Officials at the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service have also seen the potential of high technology for reforming university entrance, and even producing a full electronic CV which could match people with jobs.

Phil Boyd, a senior data protection compliance manager, said the case for opening up personal records for a large number of uses was not proven.

He said officials were proposing a series of electronic checks to limit how information about individual pupils and students was used. "We think solutions like that would allow the Department for Education to achieve what they want to achieve, without giving people one number for life, which could potentially give rise to Big Brother fears."

Schools are to be prevented from boosting their ranking in exam league tables by excluding problem pupils, under government proposals published yesterday. Children excluded up to two years before GCSEs would still count when a school calculated its success ratio.

BBC play on Reith's sexuality

BY PAUL MCCANN

THE BBC's stern Presbyterian founder John Reith would be shocked to discover that his creation is putting on a play next month which will examine his sexually ambiguous passion for a young man.

Lord Reith, who was the corporation's first Director General from 1922 to 1938, and who insisted on the highest standards of morality from BBC staff and programmes, will be portrayed as a man infatuated with his best friend.

The play, *The Reith Affair*, will be aired on Radio 3 in August, and will star the actor John Sessions. It is based on the biography of Reith, written by Ian McIntyre, former controller of Radio 3 and Radio 4. The biography examined Reith's nine-year relationship with a young man he met before the First World War, Charlie Bowser.

The play will concentrate on the period in London when the two set up home together and pursued the same woman - Muriel Odams, who Reith eventually married.

Beckett prepares for summer by sticking a pin in the Tories

AS BEFTTS a Monday, it took MPs an hour before they got warmed up. Home Office questions were a gentle affair with the pace quickening subsequently when the House debated an opposition motion on manufacturing industry.

The Home Secretary Jack Straw and his shadow, Sir Norman Fowler, led backbenchers on a general and leisurely patrol on law and order. Tempers rarely flared.

Getting the mood of the House set to your own desires is the skill of senior and seasoned political operators. Mr Straw's style is to give the general impression of the reassuring police station sergeant where all is usually well and crises

are rare. Sir Norman seemed reconciled to the quiet life of senior long-standing constable who will police the Opposition front bench until William Hague chooses to promote one of his young cadets.

Nothing excited backbenchers until the question of electoral reform was raised. Nick St Aubyn (C, Guildford) was annoyed that Lord Jenkins' committee was not considering the advantages of the first-past-the-post system and reminded Mr Straw that more than half the MPs want the present system retained.

Mr St Aubyn unleashed a general undertone of anger from the Labour benches against Lord Jen-

kins, with Gwyneth Dunwoody (Lab, Crewe & Nantwich) accusing him of "always demonstrating his ability to do nothing correctly." At the moment, Labour, with 43 per cent of the popular vote, have over 60 per cent of the seats in Parliament. Any change would cost many Labour MPs their seats. These turkeys will not vote for Christmas.

Tom Cox (Lab, Tooting) was excited about electronic tagging and was told by Mr Straw that it was about 80 per cent successful. Julie Kirkbride (C, Bromsgrove) wanted to know about the remaining 20 per cent. "They were unsuccessful," said the Home Secretary - roughly the same success rate of Labour

THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

MPs who are electronically tagged by the Mandelson Milbank machine through their beepers, pagers and mobile phones. We shifted up several gears

when the House moved on to the debate initiated by Opposition Trade and Industry spokesman John Redwood. He cruised well on autopilot for the first few minutes with his dire prognosis on how Armageddon is about to strike down British industry.

On the whole, Mr Redwood has got used to the art of Opposition better than most of his colleagues. Maybe this is because he has had more experience having opposed most of what John Major's government was doing. He has an energetic style - No opportunity for a snooze while he is speaking.

Listening and watching him is a similar to experiencing a thrill ride

at Alton Towers, but there was a technical hitch when he hit the "cruisegate". Labour MPs led by (of all people) Dale Campbell-Savours (Lab, Workington), who harassed the Tories on sleaze in the last Parliament, raised points of order.

Madam Speaker was irritated. Mr Redwood was getting dangerously out of control; the lobbyists' issue had little to do with the terms of the motion. "We haven't got to manufacturing. My constituents are very concerned and I want to send them the Hansard of this debate", she barked impatiently.

Mrs Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, responded in her usual workmanlike

way. She was predictable, with a litany of statistics and a healthy dose of sharp pins to stick into the Tory record. Nothing fazed her, not even Anne McIntosh (C, Vale of York) who tried suggesting that industry could only get the ear of Government via lobbyists.

Mrs Beckett, who probably loathes Derek Draper, spin doctors and lobbyists, simply responded: "My door is always open. I don't wait for manufacturing to come to me, I go to them."

Mrs Beckett can now go caravanning in Europe, knowing she has beaten off the spin doctors and kept secure her seat at the Cabinet table.

Redwood demands curb on lobbyists

ECONOMY
BY DAISY SAMPSON

JOHN REDWOOD yesterday attacked the Government for "creating an economy fit for lobbyists to thrive in", during a debate on the threat to jobs from recession in manufacturing.

Mr Redwood, the Tory trade and industry spokesman, demanded that the President of the Board of Trade, Margaret Beckett, introduce new regulations governing lobbying.

Lucas Lawson Mendelsohn, one of the companies at the centre of the cash-for-access controversy, was 40 per cent owned by Robert Stephen Holdings. Mr Redwood told MPs. The trust, on closer examination, he said, could be traced through a complicated tour of similar sounding company names including Jersey-based trustees. "Why does a lobby firm set up by former Labour advisers have such a complicated shareholding structure?" Mr Redwood asked.

He demanded assurances that any lobby company seeking meetings with ministers or officials should disclose the identity of its directors and main shareholders, how it accounts for its revenue costs and how it rewards its directors and principal shareholders.

Manufacturing companies should not have to employ lobbying firms, Mr Redwood told MPs, although the industry was already in recession and the Government was taking the country "back to the Sixties and Seventies".

Denis MacShane (Lab, Rotherham) countered that the outside business interests and

directorships of Tory spokesmen were the "real problem of sleaze and corruption that worried the people of this country".

Earlier in the debate Mr Redwood had told the House in answer to Mr MacShane, that he was paid a directorship, by Murray Financial, of £12,000 per year. As the row between the two men escalated, the Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, urged them to return to the subject of recession in manufacturing, tabled by Tories for the debate. "It's a disgrace the way this debate is turning out at the present time," she said.

Mr Redwood called for six measures from Mrs Beckett: encouraging savings, curbing social legislation, more policy statements, a sensible monetary policy, an announcement on EMU, and finally to "set out proper and fair rules of disclosure of lobbying companies".

Mrs Beckett replied: "These remarks [on lobbying] have nothing to do with the motion of this debate."

She denied industrial relations had grown worse under Labour, citing examples of strikes in the 1980s under the Tories. Referring to yesterday's Tube strike, she added: "The denial of investment in rail and underground and the neglect of public transport as a whole eroded morale and trust and that erosion is part of our inheritance from that government."

The Tories were the experts in creating a boom and bust economy, she said. "Eighteen years in power, unprecedented billions of windfall profits from the North Sea and they delivered the two biggest post-war recessions separated by an unsustainable boom."



The Conservative Party leader, William, passing through St Stephen's Constitutional Club at Westminster yesterday after launching a commission on the future of the House of Lords, to be chaired by the former lord chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern. Neville Elder

Blair makes last-ditch attempt to win Lords to university fees

THE HOUSE OF Lords will be urged to think again today about a rebellion that could wreck government plans to impose university tuition fees from September.

Peers have consistently opposed and therefore severely delayed a key education Bill because of the impact it would have on English, Welsh and Northern Irish students at Scottish universities.

While students with homes in Scotland will be exempt from paying for the fourth year of degree courses at Scottish universities - most undergraduates north of the border study for four years - students from the rest of Britain studying in Scotland

EDUCATION
BY BARRIE CLEMENT

will have to pay for their final year. The Lords is expected to vote down the Bill for a fourth time - the biggest defeat suffered by the government since it came to power more than a year ago.

Ministerial sources, however, were in determined mood last night, saying the government had no intention of backing down to appease the rebellious peers.

The political gulf between the two houses of parliament could postpone the controversial introduction of tuition fees,

provoking a financial crisis at the universities.

Ministerial sources at the Department for Education and Employment said the government had considered the Lord's objections and were convinced they were taking the right course of action. "We cannot and will not accept the Lord's amendments. The government feels strongly on the issue," said one senior figure.

If ministers give way, it will have implications for students on four year courses elsewhere in the United Kingdom, ministers are arguing.

Tony Blair is arguing that a government concession would ultimately cost £27m because it

would have to fund the fourth year of tuition on courses at English universities.

David Willets, Conservative education spokesman, argued that dealing with the "Scottish anomaly" would cost just £2m and there was no logical reason why the changes should apply outside Scotland.

He said there was no rational explanation for the government's position. There seemed to be a personality clash between the Department and the Scottish Office.

The Tory education spokesman thought that the government might offer some concessions in an attempt to push the Bill through, but he

pointed out that the majority against the proposal was so large that it was difficult to see how the government could win through.

The prospect last night was that the Bill would be batted between the two chambers for the next two weeks until the parliamentary recess, postponing it until autumn. It was the first time in at least 30 years that the Commons was forced to send a bill back to the Lords in such circumstances.

Diana Warwick, chief executive of the Committee of Vice-chancellors and Principals, said the most important priority was to ensure that the Bill got through in time.

Downey inquiry on its last lap

STANDARDS
BY FRAN ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

SIR GORDON Downey's investigation into the business interests of Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, may finally come to an end this week as MPs meet to discuss his report.

Last week the Standards and Privileges Committee sent Sir Gordon away with more questions after seeing his preliminary findings. Today it meets again to view his answers and may even reach a stage where its report on the issue can be published. The committee is likely to stop short of strong censure of the minister though, and it may simply publish Sir Gordon's conclusions without substantial comment.

Sir Gordon has been asked to look into whether Mr Robinson failed to declare to Parliament his directorships of a number of companies, including several linked to the late newspaper tycoon, Robert Maxwell.

Last night the Shadow Chancellor, Francis Maude, said the Prime Minister must dismiss Mr Robinson if the committee gave him anything less than unqualified clearance. Mr Blair has said anyone breaking the rules will be "out on their ear".

"In the course of a year Labour has elevated cronyism to a system of government," Mr Maude said. "The patronage of the inner circle is more important than Parliament."

"Mr Robinson is the crony's crony. He is Mr Blair's Tuscan host... Mr Blair now claims that his government must be 'purer than pure'. Now Parliament has the chance to reassert itself."

It is understood that Sir Gordon may rule that Mr Robinson should have declared a directorship of Agie UK, the British subsidiary of a Swiss engineering firm with which he was connected during the 1980s.

Drug rationing

THE GOVERNMENT'S policy on drug rationing, and especially the impotence drug Viagra, will be debated in the House of Commons tonight.

The Liberal Democrats said last night that the potential cost to the NHS of prescribing Viagra has been estimated at £1bn. This represents a quarter of the NHS drugs budget.

Today

■ In the Commons: Foreign Office questions; Chancellor's Comprehensive Spending White Paper statement; Estimates debate on the beef industry; Estimates debate on structure and funding of

THE HOUSE



university research; Remaining stages of Registration of Political Parties Bill; Adjournment debate on prescribing of Viagra.

■ In the Lords: Commons amendment on Teaching and Higher Education Bill Committee stage on Scotland Bill; Adjournment debate on reviving provincial repertory theatres.

Leak exposes body's Tory bias

A LEAKED document has undermined Conservative claims that a constitutional commission into reform of the House of Lords would be "above party politics".

William Hague, the Tory leader, announced the body yesterday, but a memorandum from the party's leader in the second chamber undermined its claim of independence.

Mr Hague said the commission would take an impartial look at alternatives to the Government's plan for an appointed second chamber.

The Tory leader said the body would not be a "creature

HOUSE OF LORDS
BY BARRIE CLEMENT

of the Conservative Party", but the confidential paper from Lord Cranborne could prove an embarrassment to that claim.

The six-page memo said the commission should not be "easily impugned" as a front for the Conservatives. Nevertheless it added: "A chairman of experience, with understanding of the Tory position and objectives, would be well placed to guide it without appearing to put a party stamp on it."

It said that Lord Mackay, the

former lord chancellor, or Lord Hurd, the former foreign secretary, would be considered among the "great and good" to lead such a group, "but with a sure party touch". Mr Hague duly named Lord Mackay as chairman and Lord Hurd as a commission member.

Lord Richard, the government leader in the Lords, said the initiative would have been interesting if it had been genuine. "But from the information we have received, it does not look as if it is a serious attempt to address the issues at all."

Conservative officials defended the commission and ar-

gued that Labour was simply trying to score political points.

Mr Hague said: "The Government plans to remove the principal independent element from our parliament and transform the House of Lords into a giant quango at the mercy of the prime minister of the day."

"If the Government succeeds, we will witness a significant transfer of power to the executive and take a significant step down the road to elected dictatorship."

Mr Hague said Labour and Liberal Democrat members would be invited to give evi-

Efficiency audit

HELEN LIDDELL, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, last night announced a review of the way in which the Office for National Statistics delivers its statistical outputs. She said external consultants will examine the efficiency of the ONS and will examine scope for improvements such as public/private partnerships.

Policy group

THE PRIME Minister, Tony Blair, has established a new ministerial group to develop government policy in the restructuring of the European aerospace and defence industry.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Live exports

GOVERNMENT proposals for the pre-export procedures for live animals were published in a consultation document yesterday.

Patient care

THE AVERAGE cost per day of keeping a patient in a Scottish hospital was £170, according to Sam Galbraith, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Scottish Office.

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Refugees face limit on asylum appeals

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

JACK STRAW, the Home Secretary, yesterday announced that refugees would only be allowed a single appeal against refusal for asylum.

In a major overhaul of the system, which costs more than £150m a year to run, Mr Straw said the changes would make it "firmer, faster and fairer". He blamed solicitors and unofficial immigration advisers for "spinning out" cases by making repeated appeals to "milk the system".

Groups working with asylum-seekers welcomed the move to simplify and speed up the system which is in disarray, with 51,000 asylum applications at present outstanding.

But Jan Shaw, refugee officer at Amnesty International, said: "Mr Straw is laying the blame at the wrong feet. It is not the solicitors but Home Office inefficiency which is at fault. The Home Office system is not even computerised."

Chris Rush, of the Refugee Legal Centre, denied that asylum applicants spun out cases. "Waiting for years is like having a sword of Damocles hanging over their heads. They want a decision as soon as possible."

He said that 70 per cent of adjournments to appeals were caused not by asylum-seekers but by the Home Office or the courts.

But the Home Secretary said that "abusive" applications had risen from 4,000 to nearly 40,000 in a decade.

The cost of the appeals system has risen from £85m to £151m in two years, while the number of appeals has risen from 25,536 in 1993 to 37,146 last year.

He gave the example of one of his own constituents from

Gujarat, India, who had been seeking asylum for five years on the basis that he faced persecution and death if he returned home.

The man had now complained at the long delay, saying he wanted his passport back so that he could go on holiday to the same village he claimed to have been driven from.

Mr Straw said that almost all asylum applications from Gujarat and from northern Pakistan would be refused because there was no evidence that people were being persecuted in those regions.

By contrast, applications from Kosovo, would almost certainly be accepted.

The reform of the appeals system is based on a restructuring of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal, which Mr Straw said would become a "one-stop shop" for appeals which would be dealt with inside six months.

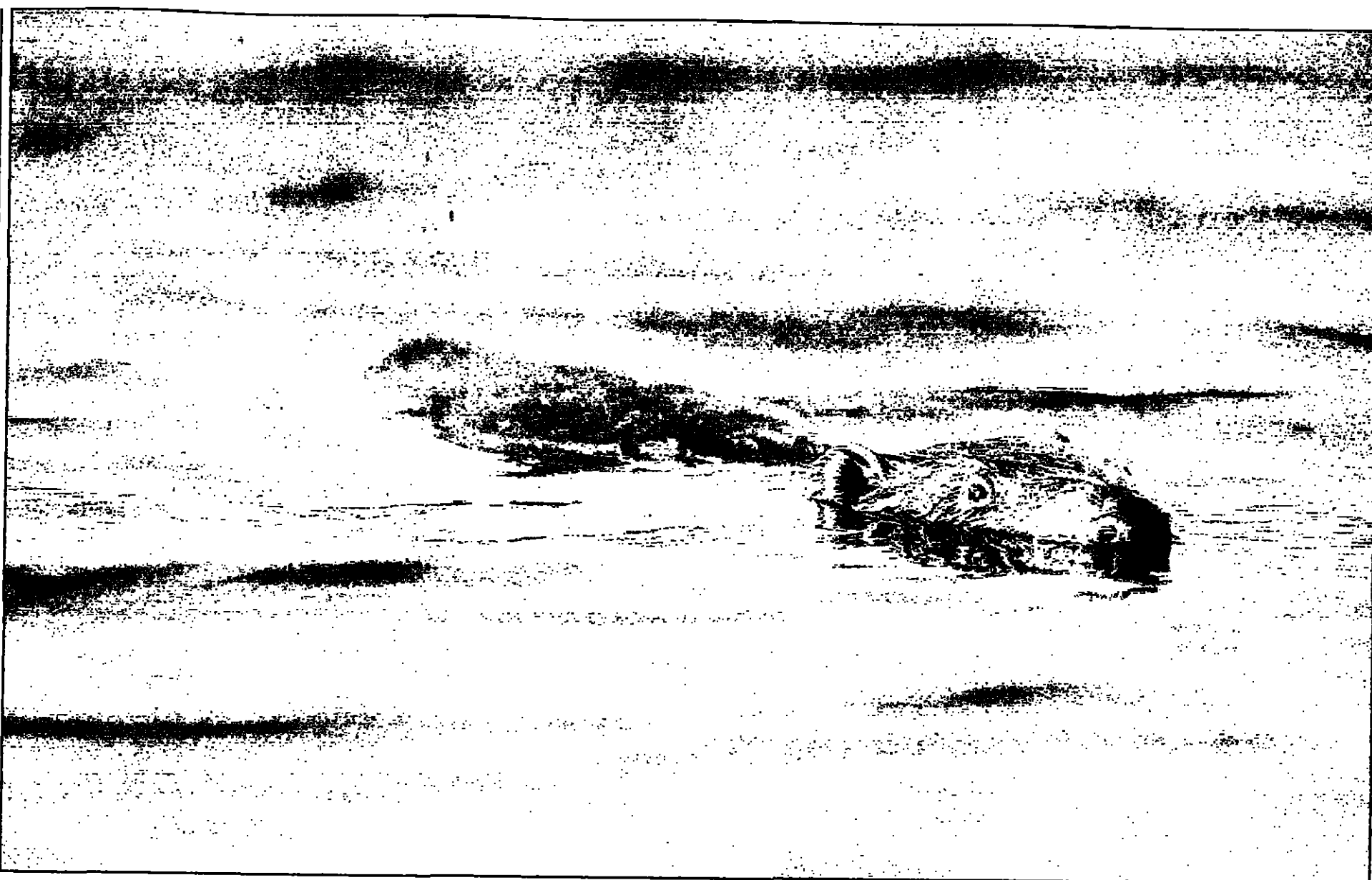
The tribunal could be presided over by a high court or circuit judge and its decisions will carry greater weight, should cases be referred to a higher court.

The number of asylum appeal cases which have been referred for judicial review has increased from 506 to 1,748 in the past five years.

Of the 94 per cent of applications for a review, only 6 per cent go to a hearing and most fail.

Mr Straw said: "High court judges will be less and less willing to consider these cases and the Legal Aid Board will become less and less tolerant of these applications."

Mike O'Brien, the Home Office minister responsible for immigration, said the tribunal would build up a case law which would "restrict the ability to make frivolous appeals".



The beaver has been reintroduced elsewhere in Europe. But anglers see plans for its return to Scotland as a potential threat to the salmon

Niall Benzie/Scotscape

Scotland awaits the beaver's return

THE PROSPECT of the beaver again being seen on the backwaters of Scotland's rivers increased yesterday with a declaration of support from the World Wide Fund for Nature - a body closely involved in the hefty rodent's successful reintroduction elsewhere in Europe.

Hunted to extinction in the British Isles more than 400 years ago, the beaver has become the favoured candidate of those who want to turn back the wilderness clock in Scotland.

Notions of bringing back the wolf have proved more controversial and have been denounced as a whimsey of "suburban dinner-party conservationists".

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent

However, not everyone is happy with the idea of the beaver's return. Anglers in particular think the dam-building creature could be the last straw for salmon populations already seriously depleted on many rivers.

This week sees the end of a four-month consultation period on Scottish Natural Heritage's (SNH) proposals for the reintroduction. As an enthusiast for the beaver, SNH, the Government's nature adviser north of the border, is leaving analysis of the responses to an independent firm of consultants, whose report will be published. If a decision eventually goes in

favour of reintroduction, the first beavers could be released in two years.

WWF, in its submission, says there is abundant scientific evidence that the beaver can help improve the conservation value of sites. The otter, water vole, trout and salmon can all benefit from beavers' coppicing of trees, small-scale dam building and grazing of aquatic vegetation, it claims.

"The beaver is apparently misunderstood, some even think it eats fish, yet it is a vegetarian," said Martin Mathers, WWF Scotland's policy officer. Nor is the European beaver an aggressive dam-builder, unlike its American cousin. It generally only builds dams when suitable riverbank sites

have been used up - to keep the water level above the entrance to its lodge home - and even then the dams are only about 12-18in high, and easily jumped by a salmon.

"There is no reason why the beaver cannot be reintroduced in a manner which safeguards fishing and forestry interests, as our experience in Europe shows. It can become a fisherman's friend, a tourist's treat and a symbol of the restoration of Scotland's once vibrant river systems," Mr Mathers said.

Beavers weigh up to 20kg and each one is estimated to fell two tons of timber a year in its hunt for food - the bark of birches and aspens in winter, and grass, herbs and shrubs in summer.

SNH believes Scotland could support about 1,000 of them, mainly on tributaries of the Ness, Spey, Tay, Dee-Don and Lomond rivers.

However, these are the same Highland river systems beloved of salmon anglers. Jeremy Read, director of the Atlantic Salmon Trust, thinks beaver dams could obstruct fish migration, especially during low water. They could threaten food supplies, as running-water invertebrates, on which salmon feed, would be replaced by still-water invertebrates.

"The Salmon and Trout Association (STA) maintains that the beaver could be one threat too many in salmon spawning grounds. Fiona Willis, vice-chairman of the Scottish Coun-

cil of the STA, said the salmon, unlike the beaver, was a valuable part of Scotland's image. "Are we sacrificing something that is very much associated with Scotland for something which isn't?"

But when Duncan Halley, of the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, tested Scottish anglers' concerns in Norway, where reintroduced beavers are common on salmon rivers, he was greeted with surprise or hilarity.

"I have yet to find any published evidence to suggest fish stocks are harmed in any way," Dr Halley said. "It seems the people who have got the beaver have no problem and the people with the problem have got no beaver."

Law Society elects the 'Ambridge' solicitor

KAMLESH BAHU, the chairwoman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, yesterday struck a blow for equality in the white male-dominated world of the legal profession.

Ms Bahu, allegedly the model for Usha Gupta, the solicitor in the radio series *The Archers*, has been elected deputy vice-president of the Law Society, which represents solicitors in England and Wales.

She is the first woman and the first person from an ethnic minority to be elected to a senior position in the society, as well as the youngest holder of such a post.

Ms Bahu, 42, said her election reflects the changing face of the traditionally male-dominated body and admitted it was unlikely she would have been elected five years ago. Although she did not stand on a sex or race platform, Ms Bahu said those causes were dear to her heart and she would be working to make the Society more inclusive.

More than 50 per cent of

BY IAN BURRELL

qualifying solicitors are now women, although surveys have shown even female partners earn an average £9,000 less than their male counterparts.

Ms Bahu said: "My election shows a clear recognition of the need for change and that we are a modern profession."

"It's important that we're seen to be relevant. We connect with people at very significant times of their lives. I'd like to see the profile of solicitors changing to reflect the value of what we do."

"We have lost all of our monopolies. We have to demonstrate that we provide a quality service now that people can go to a lot of different services for legal advice."

Ms Bahu, who was born in Nairobi, has been prominent in campaigns to gain women access to such male bastions as professional boxing and the Marylebone Cricket Club, which still bars women from the pavilion at Lord's.



Kamlesh Bahu: Elected deputy vice-president

In her five years as president of the Equal Opportunities Commission she has sought to bring it into the mainstream and throw off the "Loony Left" tag it has been burdened with for most of its 22 years.

Outspoken in her calls for more women in parliament, she has enlisted sympathetic MPs and peers and issued them with a sex equality check-

list so that they can do more to influence laws going through parliament.

Two years ago she was in the audience at the Woman Lawyer conference when the then Law Society president, Martin Mears, angered female lawyers by claiming that the "sex discrimination industry" was exaggerating the problems facing the advancement of women in the legal profession.

Also elected yesterday was the new president, Michael Matthews, a partner at Clifford Chance, and, for a second term, vice-president Robert Sayer, a senior partner in Sayer Moore & Co.

A joint statement from the trio, who were elected on a turnout of just over 25 per cent, said they hoped to bring about substantial changes to the Society, reviewing all its policies and structures, and examining its electoral process.

Defeated candidates included Michael Napier, running for president, David McIntosh and David Keating.

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Britons in foreign jails: Health concerns grow for detainees as a father and mother fight for daughter's release

Prisoners abroad double in number

THE NUMBER of Britons held in jails abroad has almost doubled in the past seven years to a post-war high. A total of 2,208 are behind bars compared to 1,287 in 1991. Apart from 1995 which saw a slight fall, the total has risen steadily each year, according to Foreign Office figures.

The vast majority - 70 per cent - are being held on drugs charges, evidence either that government campaigns to dissuade Britons from being tempted into smuggling drugs have failed or of a rise in wrongful convictions.

It also helps explain why countries with the highest rates are also on popular trafficking routes for UK-bound shipments; for instance the cannabis run from Morocco across the Straits of Gibraltar

BY MATTHEW BRACE

and up through Spain and France to the Channel. Spain and France top the list with 163 and 232 British inmates respectively. The figures were compiled before the World Cup so any football hooligans at present jailed in France have yet to be included.

France is also a penultimate destination for heroin smugglers to the UK who in recent years have taken advantage of the anarchy in the Balkan states to bring shipments through from the Far East and Pakistan into western Europe.

Cocaine comes across the Atlantic from South America via the Caribbean (87 British inmates held) or the United States (164). In 1996, 60 per cent of the 180 tonnes brought in to

Europe came through Britain and one-fifth of that total entered with couriers - sometimes holidaymakers.

Prisoners Abroad, the human rights group that monitors Britons jailed overseas and campaigns for their well-being, has lower figures than the Foreign Office because it is concerned with long-term jail sentences. But it has also seen the number rise in the past few years, from 346 in 1988 to 1,449 in 1998.

It has heightened the concerns of the group's executive director, Carlo Laurenzi, who says prison conditions in many countries fall below the minimum standards laid down by the United Nations.

"This year is the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights and despite the

fact that we are approaching the end of the 20th century there are still many British prisoners who are dying of treatable conditions such as asthma and TB," said Mr Laurenzi.

In response to the rise, Prisoners Abroad has designed a global database on criminal systems and prison conditions, believed to be the first of its kind in Europe.

It is an encyclopaedia of the world's prisons that gives up-to-date details on the idiosyncrasies of countries' legal systems and the good and bad points of jails. The length of remand periods are logged, as is the availability of legal representation, access to health care, the standard of food and water, and what gifts can be sent in by families.



Alison Spedding, held in La Paz Women's Prison, has just been moved from a windowless cell

Academic's two-year wait for trial

BY VANESSA THORPE

ON 28 MARCH Alison Spedding, a 36-year-old novelist and professor of anthropology, was discharged from a private hospital in La Paz, Bolivia, after a minor operation.

She was weak, but her spirits were high because she was looking forward to a long-awaited trip back home to England to stay with her family.

"We were going to go out shopping. Oh, I had lots of plans like that," said her mother, Maureen Raybould.

By the next day, everything had changed. Acting on a tip-off, police from the Bolivian drugs squad raided Ms Spedding's small flat in a poor Indian quarter of the city, and arrested her for possession of a disputed amount of cannabis.

"It seems that someone else in custody had given the police Alison's name," explained her father, Ken Spedding, "along with several other people's names, as a way of winning more lenient treatment. When the police found the dollars and the flight ticket she had ready for the journey home, they just assumed she must be involved with drug dealing."

Since that day Ms Spedding has been incarcerated in La Paz Women's Prison awaiting a trial that has already been postponed twice. Her family have been told it is likely to be two years at least before her trial even gets underway.

Her distinguished academic career, which has included recent research work for the Bolivian government, has so far done her no good at all. Neither has her 15-year commitment to the plight of the indigenous Aymara Indians.

"We just feel so helpless and distant," said Mr Spedding, a marketing consultant from Maidenhead. Maureen Raybould, his former wife, will travel out to Bolivia to see Ms Spedding later this month.

"The process of getting documents out to her Bolivian lawyer has been terribly difficult," Mr Spedding continued. "We had to get them notarised first, and then legalised by the Foreign Office here, and then take them to the Bolivian embassy so they could legalise

them too. And then, finally, we had to photocopy everything. Hopefully they will reach Bolivia this week in a diplomatic bag."

He stresses, however, that help received from the Foreign Office and from the support charity Prisoners Abroad has kept the family sane.

Both parents agreed that their eldest daughter is an exceptional woman, and luckily, a tough one. Ms Spedding studied archaeology and anthropology at Cambridge and travelled out to Bolivia on a dig at the end of her first year.

"That is when she got the South American bug, and since then her work for the Indians, who are really treated as second class citizens, has been everything to her. She even pays for the education of the daughter of one of her Indian friends," said Mr Spedding.

Ms Spedding moved to Bolivia in 1989 and in recent years, following an MPhil and PhD research at Cambridge and the London School of Economics, she has been lecturing at La Paz University and studying the economy of the highland region of the Andes. She has also written cult novels in the historical fantasy genre and HarperCollins has just re-issued the first of the trilogy.

"She is quite unusual and imaginative, you see," said her mother. "Everyone remembers her. I spoke to her old primary school teacher the other day and he said he still had a poem that she wrote when she was 10."

Since the arrest, Ms Spedding's parents have both been able to reach her by telephone once and she has assured them that her health is good.

"I was so worried because when I first got through to her university, I was told she had only just been moved to a cell with a window. Of course, that made me think. 'My God, where was she before that?' I know for one thing that she has had to cope with just a public cold water tap to wash in."

Ms Spedding's friends and family have put together 40 pages of character references for her lawyer and hope that this evidence and her high profile academic record will sway opinion in her favour.



Alison Spedding, right, with her mother Maureen

TERENCE BLACKER

"Anthropologists reveal that removing the TV remote control from a man's hand is, in a real sense, an act of castration"

— THE TUESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4

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Car tycoon dies on eve of tax hearing

HE WAS a tyrant, a tax cheat and a fugitive from justice. He was also a philanthropist, a freedom fighter and the most formidable of enemies. Octav Botnar, the former chairman of Nissan UK, died in Switzerland on Saturday night and was buried yesterday after a private family funeral in Paris.

His death, at the age of 84, brings to a close one of the most colourful chapters in British corporate history - and one of its longest-running legal feuds.

Yesterday former acquaintances remembered him as a bully and even a monster, but one who was capable of the greatest acts of compassion and generosity. He donated more than £100m to charity while simultaneously defrauding the taxpayer of £300m. He also made donations to the Conservative Party and funded John Major's leadership campaign.

To some he was a philanthropist of the first order. To others he was the Robert Maxwell of the motor industry.

"Like all of us he had his good side and his bad side," said Anthony Fraser, Nissan UK's director of external affairs from 1989 to 1991. "I remember on a number of occasions people would come to him with sob stories and the next thing you knew, he had written a cheque for several hundred thousand pounds. There were no strings attached. He just did it."

"The monster side to his character was that he would not tolerate people who weren't prepared to follow his wishes. If they didn't do as he wanted he would force them to and the force he used was pretty rough. He became quite a bully then."

Born in 1913 in Bukinova,

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

then part of the Habsburg Empire and now a part of western Ukraine, Mr Botnar saw more than his fair share of hardship. He was imprisoned twice by the Communists and condemned to seven years' hard labour for being a spy. In between, he was captured by the Germans and made a prisoner-of-war before escaping to join the French Resistance.

He arrived in Britain in 1966 and set up Nissan UK three years later. Through his chain of dealerships, Mr Botnar increased sales to nearly 100,000 and turned Nissan UK into one of the biggest car distributors in Britain, employing more than 2,000 and generating profits of more than £100m. Along with Norman Tebbit, then trade and industry secretary, now a Tory peer, he was instrumental in persuading Nissan to build its Sunderland car plant.

But tragedy and disaster were never far away, either in his personal or professional life. At Christmas 1972, his only daughter, Camella, 20, died in a car crash. Two years later he settled all his shares in Nissan UK on a charitable trust, and in 1978 set up the Camella Botnar Foundation, a residential and training centre for deprived youngsters in West Sussex.

He donated almost £100m to charities, including £14m to the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, where an £8m pathology and research laboratory is named after his daughter, and £5m to the Nuffield Orthopaedic Hospital.

Financial disaster struck at Christmas 1990, when Nissan of Japan announced it was termi-

nating Mr Botnar's contract to sell its cars. Four months later, in April 1991, Nissan UK's headquarters were raided by the Inland Revenue on suspicion of tax fraud. Two Nissan UK executives were subsequently jailed, but Mr Botnar fled to Switzerland where he lived until his death - at one time classed as a fugitive from justice - protesting his innocence and railing against the taxmen and the Japanese.

Last November, the Revenue withdrew arrest warrants against him after accepting that he was too ill to stand trial. But, in a separate judgment, the High Court ruled that he was liable to repay the Revenue £68m in tax on dividends paid into the charitable trusts by Nissan UK between 1974 and 1990.

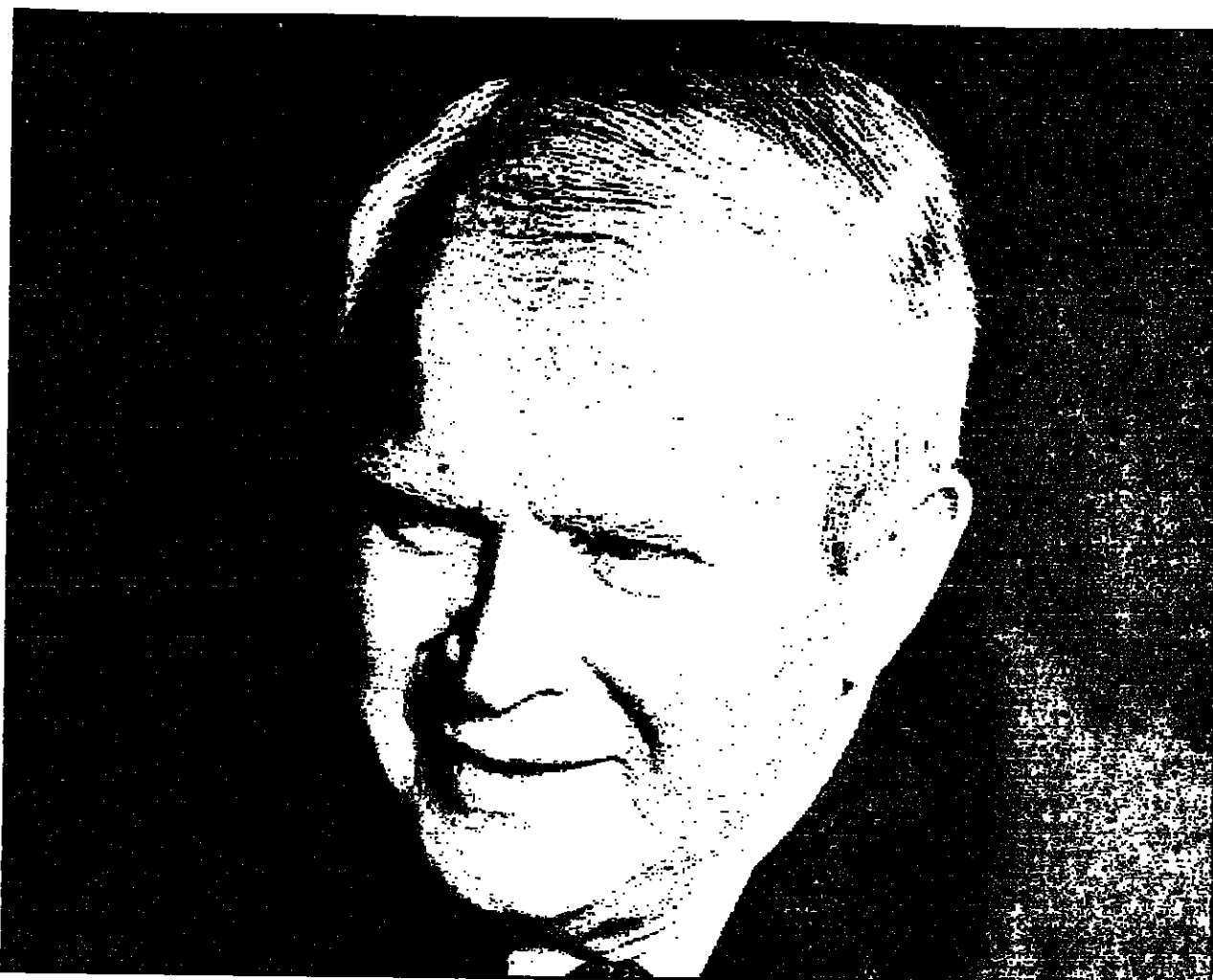
Mr Botnar continued his campaign against the Revenue, launching an action against two of its inspectors for malicious prosecution. By an irony

of timing, a High Court judge had been due to rule yesterday on an application from the Revenue to have the case struck out. Now Mr Botnar will never get his day in court.

Robert Creighton, the chief executive of Great Ormond Street, said: "It was humbling to be in his presence. This was a man whose career and life saw the most extraordinary low points, the kind that most of us would never dream of living through. Those experiences affected his view of the world."

"OK so he was a very tough businessman, but he was also a big-hearted philanthropist and it was all genuine. There was no way it was generated by self-interest or guilt. He had seen the bottom of the pile. If it hadn't been for the Inland Revenue, he would have died a hero. As it is he has died a bitter man with a tarnished reputation."

Obituary, Review, page 6



Octav Botnar, tax cheat and philanthropist, who 'would have died a hero, if it hadn't been for the Inland Revenue'

Great innovations take off

Puttnam's hopes for 'ideas factory'

LORD PUTTNAM, the film producer, will head the Government's new body aiming to persuade successful artists and scientists to give money from their royalties and copyrights to their younger, poorer colleagues.

He will chair the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (Nesta), described by Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, as a "national bank for talent."

It will also receive £200m from lottery funds.

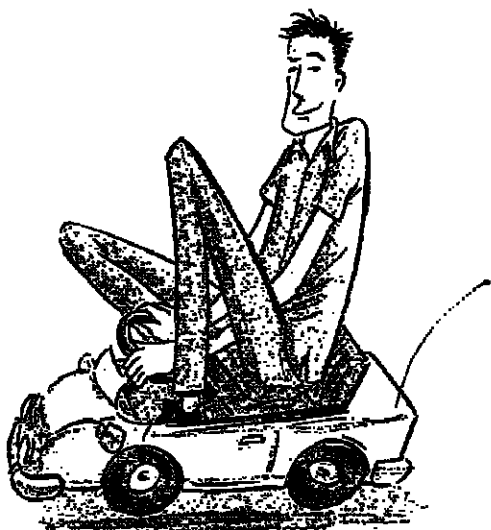
Lord Puttnam, 57, who will lead eight trustees, including the television presenter Carol Vorderman, yesterday said

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

Nesta plans to bring back the golden era of Britain being the world's "most prolific ideas factory".

At the launch at the British Library, in London, he said: "Nesta is a model for the future. By bridging the gap that has traditionally separated science and technology from the arts, it will be a magnet for fresh thinking." Lord Puttnam said the world was seeing a convergence of science, technology and the arts and cited educational software and the development of video games as two examples.

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Berlusconi turns tables on judges

THE ITALIAN opposition leader, Silvio Berlusconi, received his second prison sentence in a week yesterday, but, far from being repentant, embarrassed or ready to step down, he emerged looking determined to make capital out of what he sees as his legal martyrdom.

The former prime minister was condemned to two years and four months in prison, and fined 10m lire (£3m) for illegally slipping the Socialist Party a total of 22bn lire in the 1980s. Bettino Craxi, leader of the Socialist Party, which subsequently collapsed under a landslide of corruption charges, was sentenced to four years and fined 20m lire.

Neither man is likely to

By ANNE HANLEY
in Venice

spend any time behind bars. Craxi, a symbol of the corrupt First Republic, is in comfortable, self-imposed exile in his Tunisian villa. Berlusconi, a mover and shaker in the new Second Republic, will drag his case through years of appeals and counter-appeals, all the while stoking - and benefiting politically from - a violent popular backlash against a judiciary which until recently was hailed as the salvation of the nation.

Earlier this decade the Mani Pulite (Clean Hands) Milan-based investigation into bribes for public-works contracts,

prosecutors and judges could do no wrong. Political heads rolled at a staggering rate; managers and party minions fled abroad. Captains of industry committed suicide as prosecutors closed in for the kill. And the populace cheered as Milan's San Vittore prison filled to bursting with suspects.

Last week, when Mr Berlusconi was sentenced to two years and nine months for bribing tax inspectors, that same public applauded when the tycoon-turned-politician heaped opprobrium on what he described as a conspiracy by a politically inspired judiciary out to overturn his centre-right opposition. "We are no longer in a democracy," Berlusconi thun-

dered after the sentence was announced. "We are in a regime. As of today, our opposition is not opposition to a government. It is opposition to a regime." The shift in public opinion has been gradual but inexorable, as enthusiasm gave way to the realisation that hardly anyone was behind bars, paying for misdemeanours. "It all happened too fast," said MP Nicola Vendola. "Prosecutors became avenging angels, but disillusion was bound to set in when the slow-moving justice system couldn't keep up with them."

In 1994, champions of the Mani Pulite team were able to get people out on the street to stop Berlusconi's short-lived



Berlusconi: Unrepentant

government from introducing a law which would have allowed some corruption suspects to wriggle out of criminal proceedings. No public outrage, however, has greeted a recent

proposal from Berlusconi's Forza Italia party to turn the tables on "Communist" magistrates and set up a parliamentary review of corruption inquiries.

Debate began last week with the centre-left government parties angrily opposing formation of a body which would in effect place the Milan prosecutors and the judges who sentenced Berlusconi on trial. Their anger was short-lived: debate has been postponed for a week during which behind-the-scenes compromises are likely to ease the way for creation of the committee.

In the interim, the judiciary has been at the centre of near-hysterical acrimony. In a

speech last week, President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro criticised the timing of a 1994 decision to notify Berlusconi that he was under investigation. Until now a staunch defender of the judiciary, Mr Scalfaro suddenly became the target of a violent attack from Antonio Di Pietro, who achieved hero status as he led the Mani Pulite team. Now a senator in the government ranks, Mr Di Pietro accused Mr Scalfaro of lying when he claimed not to have been kept abreast of investigations into Berlusconi's affairs.

Criticism of the judiciary has not been limited to Milan. In Palermo, several Mafia bosses have been arrested but the fight against organised crime is

far from won. The chief prosecutor, Giancarlo Caselli, has lamented the lack of moral support for the judiciary. "We are not asking for medals for doing our duty, but we would like a bit of respect. Instead, we've been spat on, and had poison and mud thrown at us, and that's it," Mr Caselli told a conference on money laundering last week. Enrico La Loggia, Forza Italia's Senate whip, said: "We're not against the 99 per cent of magistrates who get on with their work quietly and seriously. It's the Communist ones who use their position for political ends that we object to."

And those, Mr La Loggia said, include all Berlusconi's investigators.

Star writer takes over 'New Yorker'

By ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

THE NEW editor of the *New Yorker* magazine will be one of its most respected writers, David Remnick. It was announced yesterday.

Mr Remnick's style is likely to be different from his predecessor, Tina Brown, but since he was hired by her for the magazine, there will also be continuity. Unlike her he has little editing experience, but is a veteran foreign correspondent and writer.

Ms Brown, the wife of former *Sunday Times* editor Harold Evans, gave the magazine new punch and glamour, but was sometimes accused of a fixation with celebrity journalism and glitz over substance.

Publisher Si Newhouse, a 70-year-old billionaire, bought the magazine in 1985 and quickly replaced William Shawn, its veteran editor from 1952 to 1987. Ms Brown took over the reins five years ago and left last week to work with Miramax films, the independent film production company owned by Disney. Mr Newhouse has moved quickly to replace her, and the choice will reassure



Remnick: Respected

those who feared that the magazine might be about to mutate into something quite different.

Although Ms Brown had built the circulation up from 500,000 to 800,000, it still lost \$11m last year. There had been speculation that it might turn into a bi-weekly or a monthly, which would have driven away some of the best writers who had gone to work for it.

Mr Remnick is one star in a galaxy of talent that she had attracted. His presence will reassure those who work for the magazine that standards will not slip. His name had featured prominently on the lists that circulated in the media and

at cocktail parties across New York over the past week.

Mr Remnick, 39, has previously paid tribute to Ms Brown's work at the *New Yorker*. "She enlivened the magazine to an extraordinary degree so that it had another life," he said after her departure. "Her time here was like a comet that woke things up."

The new editor started as a college intern at the *Washington Post*, where he caught the eye of then-editor Ben Bradlee. He was posted to Moscow between 1988 and 1991, and used the experience to write two books on Russia, the first of which, *Lenin's Tomb*, won a Pulitzer prize. He is a critic of the excesses of the *New Journalism*, attacking the way in which "the trivial got raised to the level of the significant and vice versa".

More than most magazines, the *New Yorker* lives and dies by its editor. Because it does not have a single focus or theme, the editor shapes and defines it from the front-cover cartoon to the lengthy feature articles and reviews. He will also have to work hard to ensure that the writers that Ms Brown attracted remain.



Israeli riot police remove an ultra-Orthodox Jew from a road construction site where ancient graves have been discovered. The protesters believe the burial ground is being desecrated. Avichai Nudel/Reuters

Cup final massacre kills 34 in Rwanda

By HRVOJE HRANJSKI

HUTU REBELS in Rwanda shot and hacked to death 34 people who were watching the World Cup final on television during a petrol-bomb attack on a roadside lodge, witnesses said.

Soldiers later helped residents of Tare, on the main road 30 miles north of Kigali, to clear out the charred remains of victims after a group of rebels attacked the lodge at 8pm local time on Sunday.

Burnt bodies - some shot and others hacked to death - were buried immediately in a hastily dug mass grave. One of the victims was a child who lay on a blood-stained mattress with his throat slit.

Bartender Jean de Dieu Muvumvaneza said he had escaped death by hiding in a latrine when a group of about 40 rebels burst in.

"They ordered everyone to stay put, and then opened fire," he said.

Officials at the scene said only six government soldiers were present during the attack. It wasn't clear what happened to them.

The victims included travellers and locals who had gathered at the Pensez-y Hotel to watch the match between France and Brazil.

Earlier, officials said the rebels shot dead Johnson Rurangwa, an official in Kigombe, 55 miles north-west of Kigali, and his two children, also on Sunday.

Yesterday drivers on the road to Kigali reported fighting between the army and rebels around Kigombe and nearby Nyarutovu.

Last week Maj Emmanuel Ndahiro said government troops killed more than 50 rebels on Rwanda's north-west border with the Democratic Republic of Congo. The rebels had been hiding in the forests or had crossed the border from Congo.

Thousands of people have been killed in rebel attacks since the return from exile in November 1996 of more than one million Hutu refugees. Former Hutu soldiers and militia men hid among refugees when they fled Rwanda in 1994, fearing reprisals for the slaughter of more than 500,000 Tutsi and moderate Hutus.

Most of their victims are Tutsi survivors, workers for local authorities and tea factories and Hutus suspected of collaborating with the authorities.

The army had to restore order after the attacks spread from the north west, a Hutu stronghold, to central and western Rwanda.

Designer helps first US flag to fly again

"IT'S STANDING there, a little worse for wear," said Bill Clinton, "but quite ready to be restored."

He was speaking not about his presidency, but about one of America's most prized historical relics, the flag which inspired the nation's national anthem, The Star Spangled Banner. The President and Mrs Clinton were launching a week devoted to restoring America's historical treasures, and the flag, housed in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, is the first. For Mr Clinton, it symbolises the nation's hardiness. "It is a metaphor for our country, which is always ready to be restored," he said.

The flag will be repaired with the help of Ralph Lauren, whose company Polo Ralph Lauren will contribute \$10m to restore it. The Pew Charitable Trusts of Philadelphia contributed another \$5m, and the remainder of the \$18m will come from smaller foundations. Mr Lauren has also contributed \$3m to pay for an advertising campaign for the ef-

fort to "Save America's Treasures," one of the top US projects for the millennium. It aims to save high-profile relics such as the original texts of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, as well as less well known treasures.

"Our monuments, our artifacts and documents and historic sites will tell the story of this nation for future generations," Hillary Clinton said earlier this year. "Yet these very symbols of our heritage, from the Star Spangled Banner to the monuments of Gettysburg to the buildings on the south side of Ellis Island, are literally deteriorating before our very eyes or will be at risk if we don't act now," she said.

The flag is particularly at risk. It was made by Mary Young Pickersgill from wool and cotton. When it was donated to the Smithsonian a century later, it had suffered badly from salt air and wind

damage, as well as from those who wanted a piece of history. It was once 30 feet by 42 feet, but eight feet had been cut off and given away as souvenirs to dignitaries and veterans.

This is a special case for those who want to save American heritage, because of its history and its symbolism. The Stars and Stripes is both a passion and an industry in America. Every day, workers in Washington raise and lower hundreds of them to sell to tourists. Congress is even considering an amendment to the Constitution to outlaw defacing the flag. Mr Lauren has often used it in his designs, so he is an appropriate figure to help save one of the originals.

But it may be harder to find the money for some of the smaller projects. President Clinton said he wanted \$50m this year and next to preserve national heritage, but Congress is dragging its feet. And without money from government coffers, it may be hard for the President to persuade other donors to part with their cash.

IN BRIEF

Yelstin sending missiles to Cyprus

PRESIDENT VELTIN and the Cypriot President, Glafcos Clerides, agreed to send Russian S-300 anti-aircraft missiles to the Greek side of the island. Turkey has threatened to use force to stop them. Yesterday a Turkish paper said Turkish planes had done assault exercises in Israel against S-300s.

EU calls for end to strife in Kosovo

THE EUROPEAN Union yesterday called for an immediate end to hostilities in Kosovo and a resumption of negotiations with direct international involvement, endorsing the principle of the use of force should any of the parties block the process.

Explosions in central Athens

TWO BOMBS exploded in central Athens yesterday causing damage but no injuries, police said. One blast occurred outside a building housing civil courts in the main judicial complex, followed by a second at a building nearby.

US Marine jet pilots escape trial

AN ITALIAN judge yesterday dropped the case against the four crew members of a US Marine jet that broke a ski gondola cable in the Alps, killing 20 people. Judge Carlo Ancona ruled that Italian courts lacked jurisdiction under the Nato treaty.

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Chocolate Covered Sultanas
Whole Earth Muesli
Whole Earth Cornflakes
Dove's Digestive Biscuits
Dove's Rice Pops
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Green & Black's Milk Chocolate
Green & Black's Dark Chocolate
Green & Black's Fruit & Nut Chocolate
Duchy Short Bread
Dove's Lemon Cookies
Dove's Oat & Honey Cookies
Rye Crackers
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Help! My grass-selling granny has been banished

STREET LIFE

SAMOTECHNY LANE, MOSCOW

MOSCOW HAS been cleaned up in preparation for the World Youth Games. Now, however, there is no grass to be had on the city streets.

I am not talking about marijuana, but rather parsley, dill and basil, the fresh herbs that Russians buy in bunches and call simply "travi" - or grasses.

I always buy grass from Marifat, a smiling Uzbek grandmother who, winter and summer alike, squats on the pavement on Samotechny Lane with herbs brought up by train from her native Tashkent. In this way rouble by rouble, she is saving to build a house for her son, who is a policeman back in Uzbekistan.

Along with all the other "human garbage" (tramps, prostitutes, unlicensed traders), Marifat has been swept out of town for the duration of the games. Strange how the ethnic Russians, who sell unrefrigerated dairy produce from trestles in

the July heat, manage to get licences, yet the Asians have a harder time selling harmless leaves.

The burning issue now is where I am going to get my herbs? I have invited a Western colleague, long absent from Moscow, to come to dinner to discuss all the "changes" that have taken place in Russia.

As usual in a crisis, I call my friend Tamara, a housewife. Loyal readers of *The Independent* will remember how, back in 1991, I dragged Tamara with her full purse round the empty Soviet shops to demonstrate how difficult it was for her to buy anything at all. Then, hypocritically, I went off and bought my own food in a hard-currency store open only to foreigners.

Thank goodness that apartheid-like system has been abolished. Russians and foreigners now have equal access to a wide range of goods. The only question is whether the housewife has enough money for a shopping expedition.

"I've got enough to buy grass, anyway," says Tamara, "and I think I know where we can get some. From old Tanya."

"Not Tanya the shop assistant from Hell?" I ask.

"The very same". I have not had cause to patronise Tanya for several years. She works in one of the few remaining state shops. The rudeness of the former Soviet staff has to be experienced to be believed. Tanya, with



Foreign 'chelnoki' feed Russian shoppers Hubertus Golsteijn

rings on every finger and filthy fingernails, literally flings vegetables into the faces of customers.

Full of trepidation, we ask for herbs. "There on the counter, haven't you got eyes?" Tanya

snarls. Meekly we pay for the limp bunches. The rest of our shopping we will do elsewhere.

Fortunately there are now alternatives. Often Tamara and I go to the "optovyy rynok" (wholesale market)

near Samotechny Lane. It is chaotic and you have to be on your guard against imported goods past their sell-by date, but there are real bargains to be had from the "chelnoki" (shuttle traders) who bring groceries from Poland and Turkey, and sell them out of metal containers.

We never risk buying meat or fish, but there can be no danger of salmonella in pasta and rice. Tamara and I save money by buying for two families, then sharing.

Russia was never a nation of shopkeepers, but the "chelnoki" will be the shop-owners of the future. A local container market is to close to make way for a new glass and concrete shopping centre for the Samotechny Lane area, which is being gentrified. Even the successful shuttle traders will move into proper shops in the complex.

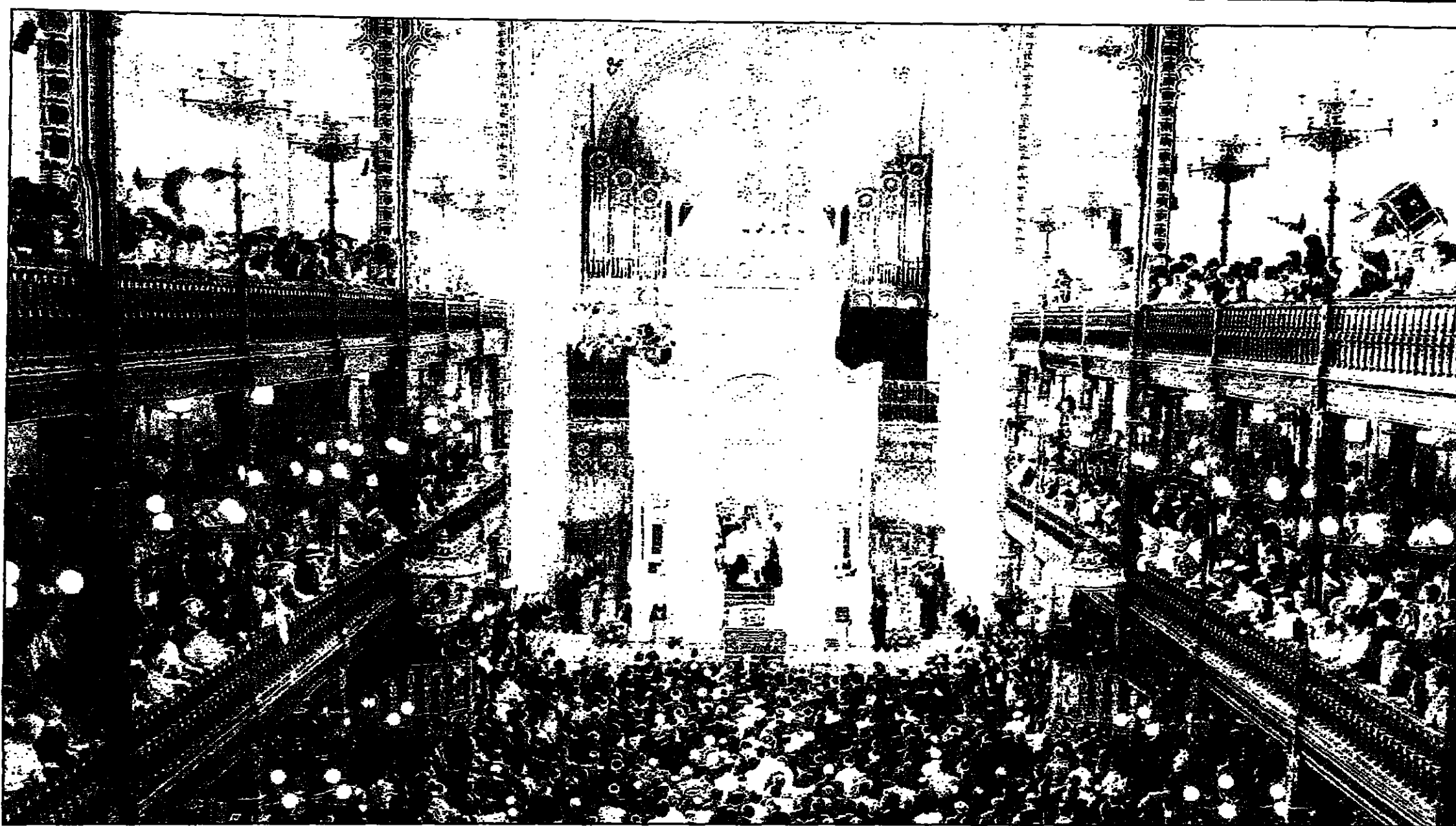
Already my area boasts several Western-style stores. On the corner

is a mini-mart run by two delightful former teachers, since they cannot earn a living wage in the classroom. Their shop cannot fall because, good manners aside, it is open all hours and sells alcohol.

Next door is "Belinda", a supermarket with French delicacies. The prices are astronomical which only rich New Russians can afford. On my way home, I realise I have not got toilet paper. I can hardly expect my guest to use *Pravda* like a Russian. At this late stage, "Belinda" is the only option.

"Do you have any toilet paper?" I venture. The chic salesgirl inclines her head slightly, then contemptuously goes on polishing her nails. Not "Tanya from Hell" but "Daughter of Tanya". Is there an inherent masochism in the nature of Russians that makes them long to be abused by shop assistants?

HELEN WOMACK



Jews in Budapest celebrate the inauguration of the renewed Dohane Street synagogue in 1996. Since the fall of Communism, Jewish life has reawakened in Hungary

EU tries to broker peace in Sudan

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

THE FOREIGN Office Minister Derek Fatchett left last night on a four day mission to Nairobi and Khartoum to try to nudge the Sudanese Government and the rebels into a truce that would allow more aid to reach the famine threatened population of southern Sudan.

Mr Fatchett, who has the backing of the EU, major western aid donors and East African countries including Sudan, is under few illusions his task will be easy. But the hope is to secure a temporary ceasefire, and agreement on safe corridors through which relief supplies could come in. Speed is of the essence, officials say, if aid is to arrive in time to bridge the gap between now and October, when the harvest is due.

Some 1.2m people are in desperate need of assistance in Sudan, the World Food Programme estimates. Despite the best efforts of relief agencies, they have been fighting a losing battle.

Britain has given Sudan £160m of aid since 1991, including £25m in the last five months. But the fighting in the region means that 90 per cent of money goes on transport costs - mainly air transport. "If we can get a ceasefire, and have food brought in by trains, trucks and by river, far more of the money will go on aid proper," a British official said.

In Nairobi, Mr Fatchett will have talks with the Kenyan Government and with representatives of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which for 15 years has been fighting to secure autonomy for the Christian and animist south from the predominantly Muslim north. After that he travels to Khartoum.

Addressing government troops last week in the besieged stronghold of Juba, 800 miles south of the capital, Sudan's President Omar el-Bashir vowed to crush the rebels and "cleanse all areas" as a first step to putting an end to the conflict and rebuilding the country.

But, despite the President's belligerent words, Mr Fatchett will probably have more trouble convincing the SPLA than Khartoum of the merits of a ceasefire. Having encircled Juba, the insurgents reckon they have the upper hand, and that any pause in the fighting would only allow government forces to regroup.

Hungary's Jews enjoy a revival

FOR THE people of the book, as Jews are known, the publication of a new volume of prayers is always cause for celebration. But in Budapest, once home to one of the greatest Jewish communities of eastern Europe, the first edition of the New Year prayer book in Hungarian and Hebrew - published this month - has a special resonance.

The shadow of the Holocaust that took the lives of over half a million Hungarian Jews is finally receding, and Hungary's Jewish community, at between 80,000 and 100,000 strong, is enjoying an unprecedented revival. Budapest is now home to a dozen synagogues, several Jewish kindergartens and day schools. Jewish newspapers, magazines, religious study groups and youth organisations are flourishing.

The political and religious freedom which followed the collapse of Communism has triggered a wave of interest in

BY ADAM LEBOR
in Budapest

Jewish history, culture and religion. For the first time in decades, anti-Semitism - whether of the Nazi or Communist variant - is officially outlawed and Jews are free to celebrate their religion and their culture. Young Jews openly wear stars of David, and proudly assert their identity.

"Everything has changed since 1989, Jewish life has reawakened, especially among young people. They are going to synagogue, joining Jewish youth groups, keeping the festivals, attending cultural events and going to Jewish schools. They want to learn to understand their religion and their culture, and they are not afraid to be Jewish," says Rabbi Baruch Oberlander, editor of the New Year prayer book.

Born in New York of Hungarian parents, both Holocaust survivors, Rabbi Oberlander,

32, arrived in Budapest in 1989 and has helped kick-start a dormant community back to life, making Budapest the most vibrant Jewish community in the region.

As well as publishing three prayer books and a basic primer of Judaism, Budapest Lubavitch, publisher of the prayer book, also distributes direct-mail newsletters and runs a web-site on the Internet (www.zsido.com), offering a live camera-link to the Western Wall in Jerusalem, a Torah fax question line, and an advice column called "Ask the Rabbi".

It's a far cry from the dead decades of Communism when travel to, or even contact with Israel, was forbidden. Jewish life of a sort survived under Hungary's Marxist regimes but anti-Semitism was often disguised as anti-Zionism. Many Jews were afraid openly to practise their religion and celebrate their culture, leaving a knowledge gap.

"A lot of information about

Judaism is missing here, the sort of basic knowledge Jews usually get from their grandparents, or from attending a Jewish school, and these books can fill that gap," says Rabbi Oberlander.

"Jews are called the people of the book and that is especially important in Hungary, where Jewish culture is reviving. Some Jews are still not comfortable coming to synagogue, or openly identifying as Jews. But a book that is on sale everywhere they can take home, and read it in private at their leisure."

Until the Second World War Hungary's Jewish community, about 800,000 strong, was one of the largest in eastern Europe. Half lived in Budapest.

Many Jews arrived during the 19th century from the Balkans and Poland. Living among a Hungarian population roughly divided between aristocrats and peasants, the Jews found a niche as the burgeoning middle-class active in

business and the professions. The ease with which they settled and prospered helped trigger the spread of east European anti-Semitism.

Hungary's immigrant Jews contributed to the development of the Hungarian language, the glue that in the 19th century did much to hold the emergent Hungarian nation together. Hungarians were encouraged to speak German, but the Jews, keen to assimilate as rapidly as possible, learned the Magyar tongue and incorporated it into daily life.

But Hungarian Jews found that their patriotism counted for nothing once the war began. Hungary introduced anti-Jewish laws over a decade before Hitler took power in 1933. By the outbreak of war a full panoply of anti-Jewish regulations were in force, institutionalising anti-Semitism at every level of society.

With the invasion by the Nazis in March 1944, that prejudice would ease the Jews' paths from their homes to the gas chambers of Auschwitz. But while the Jewish communities outside the capital were all but wiped out, the ghetto in Budapest, the last great mass of Jews in Nazi-controlled territory, survived, to be liberated by the Russians. It is the children and grandchildren of those Holocaust survivors that are now revitalising Jewish life in Hungary.

"I wanted to know what Judaism was all about, although my family is not religious," says Balint Nogradi, 23, a student. "Now I keep kosher at home, and I live an Orthodox lifestyle. This is the path I want to take."

Even those who are not orthodox are taking a pride in their heritage and culture. "Now I see many positive things happening in Jewish life here," says Dora Czuk, 26, a television reporter.

"There are many more Jewish weddings for example, it's easy to go to Israel, there are more Jewish restaurants, there is even a programme about Jewish cooking on television, which never would have happened under the old system. I wear a star of David, but I've never had any bad experiences. People are just interested usually and ask me if I am religious."

But not all the news is good. For the first time the extreme-right and virulently anti-Semitic Hungarian Life and Justice Party gained enough votes in this year's general election to return 14 MPs. Led by the playwright Istvan Csaruka, the party's electoral success sent a shudder of fear through the Jewish community, especially among the older people.

But among young Jews like Dora Czuk, whose great-grandparents were killed at Auschwitz, the mood is one of defiance. "I'm not scared. The last few years showed us that we can live in peace as Jews however we want."

Yeltsin rescued by massive IMF loan

AFTER DAYS of grinding negotiations, the International Monetary Fund yesterday finally unveiled a huge emergency loan package to help Russia in its battle to defend the rouble and, ultimately, to fend off the risk of political and social turmoil.

The fund, with the World Bank and Japan, is set to give \$22.6bn (£13.5bn) to Moscow in credits over this year and next, after what the Kremlin's chief negotiator, Anatoly Chubais, described as the "toughest" bargaining yet between the two sides.

But some of the money - which folds in \$5.5bn of existing loans with \$17.1bn of new ones - will be dependent on whether Russia can fulfil its austerity

BY PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

package, first by propelling it through parliament and then by putting it into action.

The agreement brought cheer to Russia's emaciated stock and bond markets, sending them on a rare upward trajectory after a six-month period which has cut stock values by more than half. Moscow's benchmark share index, the RTS, closed at 157.20, a rise of more than 9 per cent.

While it will not resolve many of his problems, Boris Yeltsin is certain to be mightily relieved by the agreement, which follows his telephone calls last week to world leaders

- including Tony Blair - to rally help in his hour of need.

The deal, which is expected to be confirmed by the IMF's board next week, provides President Yeltsin and his government with much needed breathing space. They will now be better placed to press ahead with promised improvements in revenue collecting, particularly taxes - and the introduction of a realistic tax code.

At the heart of Russia's fiscal crisis lie fears that the rouble will eventually crash, or be devalued, causing a return to hyper-inflation which would wipe out all confidence in the currency; deepen the 147 million population's economic woes, and possibly even threaten Mr Yeltsin's

grip on the Kremlin. Voices demanding the President's departure have hardened considerably in recent weeks.

The economic fall-out of a rouble collapse would be certain to spread beyond Russia into most of the former Soviet republics and western Europe, particularly Germany. "The IMF has finally realised what others have realised," said one Western fund manager yesterday. "That Russia is just too big to fail."

The government, led by Mr Yeltsin's green-horn prime minister Sergei Kiriyenko, has for weeks been grappling with a liquidity crisis which has seen it struggling to raise money to roll over its short-term debt - \$30bn in the second half of this year

alone. Russia intends to stop issuing short-term government securities, favouring instead seven or 20-year Eurobonds.

Investor confidence has been shattered by a combination of factors, sending interest rates rocketing. These include the Asian crisis; the loss of tax revenues caused by the plunge in world oil prices, and unrest in the labour market.

Last night the picture seemed a little brighter. "We are convinced that these resources will allow us to significantly strengthen the anti-crisis efforts of the government and will help to stabilise and strengthen the Russian economy," said Mr Chubais.

The IMF will give \$11.2bn in

new loans to Russia this year. Half this amount will hinge on the Russians carrying out their pledged reforms, and getting them through the Communist-dominated legislature. The rest of the money will be available during the remainder of the year. The World Bank is slated to chip in \$4bn of new credits and Japan will give \$1.5bn.

The White House hailed the accord as "a major step forward with Russia's reform efforts." This overstates matters. In truth, it has more to do with propping up the devil you know - Mr Yeltsin - and preventing the small achievements of market transition in this unstable, heavily armed, former empire from falling apart altogether.

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BUSINESS

Colt Telecom seeks £600m for European expansion

BRIEFING

Investors back Coca-Cola float

INVESTORS yesterday gave the thumbs up to the £1.7bn floatation of Coca-Cola Beverages, Coke's bottler in Central and Eastern Europe, pushing the shares up as much as 16 per cent on their first day of trading on the London Stock Exchange.

In early trading the stock spiked up 25p to 185p, a 16 per cent premium to the institutional offer price of 160p. It later closed at 169p, with around 30 million shares traded. Tracker funds were particularly active as the company is expected to enter the FTSE 250 in September. The listing was 13 times oversubscribed and valued the company, which is the world's fourth-largest Coca-Cola bottler, at £1.7bn.

NY exchange looks for partners



THE New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) is in talks with potential strategic partners. In an interview, Richard Grasso, chairman and chief executive of the NYSE, said: "Whether talks will lead to a strategic linkage or an acquisition, it's hard to say, but talks can only intensify."

His comments come in the wake of last week's surprise link-up between the London Stock Exchange and Deutsche Börse, the German stock market, as well as the recently announced Nasdaq/Amex merger. Some analysts speculated that the NYSE could be seeking a link with a derivatives exchange. Unlike many of its rivals, NYSE does not own a derivatives market.

Partco confirms approach

PARTCO, the troubled car components group, yesterday confirmed that it had received an approach from its rival Finelist, but denied that the move amounted to a takeover offer.

The company issued a statement to the Stock Exchange yesterday after weekend press reports suggested that Finelist was planning a bid. Partco, whose share price plunged in June after a profits warning, said it had not received an offer from Finelist but only "an invitation" to consider areas of mutual co-operation.

Finelist was last night studying the statement and is expected to decide in the next few days whether to mount a full-scale bid. Partco shares closed up 1p to 233.5p, while Finelist was down 5p to 291.5p.

COLT TELECOM, the fast-growing business telecom operator, is to issue debt and shares worth £600m to expand from 12 to 26 the number of European cities it serves - putting the US-owned group ahead in the race to become the first truly pan-European telecom operator.

Colt shares surged 125p to 2,912.5p yesterday as the group unveiled plans to build between eight and ten new city telecom networks during 1999, with a further four planned to be up and running by the year 2000. Colt already has sophisticated fibre-optic telecom networks in eight European cities, includ-

BY PETER TRAL LARSEN

ing London, Paris, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Munich, Berlin, Zurich and Amsterdam. Services in Brussels, Düsseldorf and Madrid are scheduled to start in the next few months, while its Milan network should be operating by the end of the year.

The company now plans to build similar networks in Barcelona, Cologne, Geneva, Lyon, Stuttgart and Vienna, as well as another eight, as yet unnamed, cities. Colt is also considering building long-distance links between the cities, giving it a true pan-European network.

"This is a customer-led expansion plan," said Paul Chisholm, Colt's president and chief executive. "We believe the size and growth potential of the European telecoms market, coupled with continued liberalisation, provide considerable opportunity."

Colt targets major financial and business centres with plenty of demand for high-speed telecom and data transmission services. It first builds a fibre-optic ring around the city centre and then connects it to its new customers.

Colt's business model is similar to the one employed by Worldport, the US operator

that was bought last year by AT&T, the American long-distance carrier, for \$10bn. It was set up by Fidelity, the US fund management group, which still holds a 60 per cent stake.

Colt has made swift in-roads in Europe's newly liberalised telecom markets, luring business customers with lower prices and superior services than those offered by established state telecom operators such as France Telecom and Deutsche Telekom. The company is aiming to take between 5 and 10 per cent of each local market in which it operates.

Results for the first six

months of the year, released yesterday, showed revenues were £31.7m - more than the firm made in the whole of 1997. But the increased cost of building local networks also pushed Colt's losses up to £22.2m from £14.7m in the first half.

However, enthusiasm for the company's prospects has driven its share price to new highs this year - up tenfold since joining the stock market at 275p late in 1996 and now on the brink of joining the FTSE 100 index.

This rapid rise has allowed Colt to raise more capital. Last November, it raised £200m via a share issue. It has invested

approximately £249m in building its networks to date.

"Who knows whether 26 or even 34 cities is the right number," one analyst said. "The execution is so good, people are willing to believe almost any share price at the moment."

The issue will be carried out by a bookbuilding exercise for institutional shareholders, who will be asked how many shares they want and at what price. This requires investors to waive pre-emption rights which rule that all shareholders in a company should be given the opportunity to take part when new shares are issued.

Survey points to retail sales fall

BY LEA PATERSON

THE VALUE of retail sales has declined for the first time in more than three years, according to a British Retail Consortium (BRC) survey, adding to concerns that the UK economy could be heading for a "hard landing".

The BRC monthly sales monitor found that the value of retail sales was 0.1 per cent lower in June 1998 than in June 1997, partly because of the wet weather and the World Cup. Fund managers also fear the economy could be heading for a hard landing, according to a survey by Merrill Lynch and Gallup. The monthly Merrill Lynch fund managers' survey found that although forecasts for GDP growth were fairly upbeat, asset allocations suggested managers were nervous about economic prospects.

Fund managers are moving into so-called "defensive" stocks like large pharmaceutical and telecoms companies, which tend to fare well in recession. Managers have also begun to move out of equities and property, typically sensitive to the economic environment. Separately, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said producer input prices were down 0.7 per cent in June and down 8.7 per cent on the year. Although the figures were slightly higher than expected, economists said the data showed a weak raw material cost environment. Producer output prices were largely unchanged on the month, suggesting that labour costs continue to rise.



Traders in Tokyo watch as markets rebound on the implications of Mr Hashimoto's resignation Reuters

Yen rebounds in Hashimoto turmoil

THE TURMOIL in Japanese financial markets continued yesterday as the yen rebounded from a one-month low and Japanese stocks staged a recovery on hopes that the resignation of the Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, will accelerate efforts to kick-start the beleaguered economy.

The poor performance by Mr Hashimoto's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in Sunday's Upper House elections initially wiped 2 per cent off Japanese stocks and boosted the dollar more than three yen to

a high of ¥144.50 in Tokyo trading.

But Mr Hashimoto's resignation prompted hopes of more concerted government action and sent the Nikkei stock average up 1.7 per cent to close 270.33 points stronger at 16,360.39. That helped the yen recover to 142.5 against the dollar.

"The recovery in the yen reflects a belief that in view of the disastrous results, Mr Hashimoto's successor will have no choice but to adopt a more expansive policy strategy," said

Paul Meggyesi, senior currency economist at Deutsche Bank in London.

But the prospect of political uncertainty until Mr Hashimoto is replaced as LDP leader on 21 July and parliament chooses a new prime minister on or after 30 July is likely to keep the dollar firmly supported, experts said.

Avnash Persaud, at JP Morgan in London, adopted a negative stance on the prospects for Japanese markets, predicting that the yen's slide against the dollar and German

mark will continue. "While some are trying to put a positive spin on the poor showing of the Japanese LDP in the elections, we think the results are unambiguously negative for the yen," he said.

Reiterating his September/October target of ¥155 against the dollar, he said that Japan would increasingly rely on a weak exchange rate to deliver economic recovery and that a policy vacuum would further add to pressure on the currency.

Hamish McRae, page 19

Treasury bans income bonds as too risky

BY ANDREW VERITY

THE TREASURY has slapped an outright ban on income bonds linked to the performance of more than one stock market, closing down a savings market worth £400m a year.

The ban follows a Treasury investigation which concluded that insurance companies had failed properly to assess the risks of the product, breaking key regulations designed to safeguard investors.

In a letter to insurance companies, Martin Roberts, director of insurance at the Treasury, said the products ran counter to guidance issued in 1996. The guidance barred companies from issuing bonds of this type if they meant "a significant increase in risk to the policyholder".

More than £1bn has been invested over the last three years in the bonds, known as "multi-index bonds". The products, bought by around 100,000 people a year, typically offer a high income of 10 per cent after tax.

Rather than guaranteeing a full return of the sum invested, they typically promise to return the initial investment if neither the FTSE 100 nor the S&P 500 in the US falls over the five years when money is invested. Financial derivatives are used to support the promises.

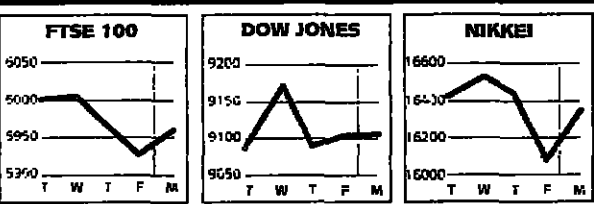
But they have met with severe criticism from actuaries and independent financial advisers, who say investors have not been made sufficiently aware of the risks.

Peter Nowell, appointed actuary at the Prudential, warned two years ago that marketing literature had played down the risks inherent in the products. The literature focused on the FTSE 100 since 1984. But the risk appeared much bigger if the stock market was traced back to the early 1970s.

The Treasury decided to move after one insurance company launched a multi-index bond using three different indices.

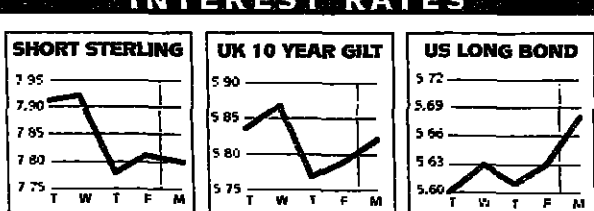
The ban, which does not affect existing policies, will be a blow to the leading providers of the bonds. They include Scottish Mutual, the Abbey National subsidiary, which drew in £400m of business from the bonds in the last three years. Others affected include Euro-life, Zurich Life, Canada Life and GE Financial.

STOCK MARKETS



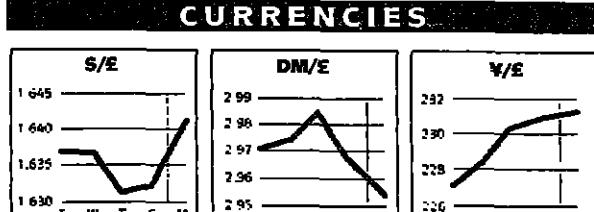
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5958.20	28.50	0.48	6150.50	4382.80	3.84
FTSE 250	5638.00	9.20	0.16	5970.90	4407.80	3.38
FTSE 350	2874.00	12.00	0.42	2940.10	2141.80	3.76
FTSE All Share	2798.41	10.93	0.39	2872.04	2106.59	3.73
FTSE SmallCap	2576.60	-2.30	-0.09	2795.80	2182.10	3.21
FTSE Fledgling	1413.10	-0.50	-0.04	1517.10	1225.20	3.38
FTSE AIM	1097.40	0.00	0.00	1146.90	965.90	1.19
FTSE EBLK 100	1089.30	5.36	0.50			
Dow Jones	9106.00	-0.26	0.00	9261.91	6971.32	1.61
Nikkei	16360.39	270.33	1.68	20668.67	14488.21	0.93
Hang Seng	8099.20	-106.57	-1.30	16820.31	7351.68	5.05
Dax	6019.48	37.05	0.62	6052.13	3467.24	2.64

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	Yr. Chg.	10 year	Yr. Chg.	Long bond	Yr. Chg.
UK	7.80	7.80	7.88	0.38	5.82	-1.19	5.41	-1.54
US	5.69	-0.06	5.78	-0.24	5.46	-0.79	5.68	-0.88
Japan	0.65	-0.01	0.65	-0.15	1.71	-0.84	2.24	-0.81
Germany	3.55	0.42	3.81	0.54	4.71	-0.84	5.32	-1.04

CURRENCIES



Index	at 5pm	Change	Yr. Ago	Index	at 5pm	Change	Yr. Ago
Dollar	1.6413	+0.0001	1.6895	Sterling	0.6093	-0.34p	0.5929
D-Mark	2.9542	-1.51p	3.0218	D-Mark	1.8008	-1.77p	1.7905
Yen	231.38	+¥1.06	192.37	Yen	140.34	-¥0.13	113.70
E index	105.50	0.00	105.00	S index	113.50	0.00	102.60

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	Yr. Ago	Index	Close	Chg	Yr. Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	11.33	-0.10	17.82	GDP	114.80	3.00	111.46
Gold (\$)	291.80	1.00	319.95	RPI	163.50	4.20	156.91
Silver (\$)	5.27	-0.03	4.36	Base Rates	7.50	6.75	

Source: Bloomberg

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.6008	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.32
Austria (schillings)	20.14	Netherlands (guilder)	3.2532
Belgium (francs)	59.24	New Zealand (\$)	3.0668
Canada (\$)	2.3590	Norway (krone)	12.24
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8368	Portugal (escudos)	281.20
Denmark (krone)	11.00	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.9606
Finland (markka)	8.7788	Singapore (\$)	2.6996
France (francs)	9.6188	Spain (pesetas)	242.88
Germany (marks)	2.8798	South Africa (rand)	10.01
Greece (drachma)	476.36	Sweden (krone)	12.83
Hong Kong (\$)	12.29	Switzerland (francs)	2.4377
Ireland (pounds)	1.1383	Thailand (bahts)	61.93
India (rupees)	64.01	Turkey (liras)	425291
Israel (shekels)	5.5344	USA (\$)	1.5979
Italy (lira)	2842		
Japan (yen)	228.54		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.6588		
Malta (lira)	0.6251		

Allied Carpets' shares suspended

SHARES IN Allied Carpets, the struggling carpet retailer, were suspended yesterday after the company revealed that accounting errors had led to irregularities in its sales figures.

Management insisted that there was "no issue of fictional sales or profits", but the company said the amount covered by the error could be 3 per cent of sales, equivalent to £7.5m, according to analysts' estimates. Brokers knocked 23m off profit forecasts for the year to June, putting them at £10m.

Allied Carpets said the prob-

lem had arisen just before its year-end in June as head office pushed for higher sales.

Although the company's accounting policy is to recognise a sale only upon delivery, some stores had been booking sales on carpets that had been ordered and fully paid for, but not yet delivered. The effect of the practice would have been to bring forward profits into the 1997/98 year.

"The guys in the stores are

not thinking about accounting policies," said Ray Nethercott, Allied Carpets' managing director. He denied suggestions that the errors may have arisen after a harder-than-usual push from head office.

The errors were discovered during some random tests during the auditing process. Allied's auditors, Arthur Andersen, have started an inquiry into ongoing compliance procedures. The company hopes that this will be completed in time to coincide with the publication of its annual results on

28 July. However, the publication of the figures will be delayed if the inquiry is not finished.

Mr Nethercott said it was too early to say if anyone would be disciplined. "I think it is just an element of people being a bit overzealous," he said. However, analysts said the news would raise questions over the stringency of the group's management controls. "It does make you wonder what the checking procedures were," one said.

Allied Carpets' shares were

suspended at 74.5p after the company contacted the stock exchange and informed it of the errors. The shares stood at 320p 18 months ago.

The suspension is the latest in a series of blows to the company. Its shares have been hammered by a difficult trading environment which has hit sales of higher-ticket consumer items such as carpets and furniture.

Allied Carpets issued a profit warning in May saying this year's profits would be below the previous year's £16.7m.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

FOOTSE, drawing a little encouragement from the Japanese election and the International Monetary Fund loan to Russia, gained 28.5 points to 5,958.2. But trading was moderate.

Coca-Cola Beverages, a new issue, accounted for around 25 per cent of turnover. Sold at 160p, the shares touched 192.5p, but then quickly lost much of their sparkle, settling at 169.5p. Banking shares led blue chips as investors positioned themselves ahead of the forthcoming dividend season.

Derek Pain, page 21

NEW YORK

US STOCKS were mixed at midday, as a decline in oil shares tempered a rally in Microsoft and other computer companies, which rose on optimism on their second-half earnings.

Oil shares fell amid speculation that cuts in output from the Opec cartel will not be enough to offset the global excess supply and trigger a rebound in oil prices. At midday, the Dow was down 5.15 points to 9100.33. The broader Standard & Poor's index rose 0.75 points to 1163.08. The Nasdaq index rallied 16.51 points to 1959.55.

TOKYO

STOCKS ROSE for the first time in three days after the Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, resigned to take responsibility for the LDP's rout in Sunday's upper house election. Leading banks, car makers and retailers, which could benefit from tax cuts, led the gains.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index closed up 270.33 points, or 1.68 per cent, at 16,360.39, buoyed by public sector fund buying. The broader Topix index of all companies listed on the first section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange added 14.94 points, or 1.20 per cent, to 1,256.44.

SOUTH KOREA

THE BENCHMARK Kospi index dropped 3.60 points, or 1.18 per cent, to 301.37 amid concerns over falling exports and rising labour unrest.

The Korean won, which has appreciated by 6.43 per cent against the US dollar in the past month, rose another 0.27 per cent to 1,309.50 to the dollar. A 1 per cent drop in the yen's value against the won causes exports to drop by 0.6 per cent, analysts said. In the first half of the year, Korean exports to Asia declined at an annual rate of 27 per cent.

RUSSIA

MARKETS rallied across Eastern Europe as Russia secured \$22.6bn of IMF-led loans for this year and next.

The news sent Moscow-listed stocks soaring: the benchmark RTS index rose by 9.2 per cent to 157.20, its biggest one-day gain for six weeks. Volume, at \$40m (£25m), was strong compared with recent levels, but about half the level traders say the market needs. Russia's debt negotiator, Anatoly Chubais, said the loan deal meant that the government could rule out a devaluation of the rouble.

Is the telecoms bonanza for real?

COLT TELECOM Group is one of those stocks everyone wishes they had; unfortunately, hardly anyone outside Fidelity Capital of the US and the company's senior management team does.

Still, not to worry. Now's your chance. Taking advantage of a soaring share price, the company is planning an initial public offering of £600m of new equity, quasi equity and high yield bonds. Until about a year ago, the shares chugged along at round about their flotation price of 275p; then quite suddenly they took off and have risen tenfold since then. In such a thin market - only 30 per cent of the stock is traded - and with the likes of Salomon Smith Barney loudly proclaiming Colt to be the greatest thing since sliced bread, they could hardly do otherwise. Fidelity can't believe its luck.

The valuation achieved makes sensational reading. At £3.4bn the company is valued at an astonishing 42 times last year's sales. From a standing start little more than four years ago, Colt is now large enough in terms of stock market capitalisation to qualify for the FTSE 100 share index, this for a company which even on the most optimistic



OUTLOOK

forecasts, won't turn a profit for four years. Surely some mistake, to borrow Private Eye's time-honoured expression of bewilderment.

Perhaps that will eventually prove to be the case, but for the time being investors can't get enough of Colt; the shares actually rose on the announcement of the company's latest money raising and expansion plans.

One thing ought to be made clear before getting too cynical over what's happened to the share price. Colt is a clever idea, cleverly and professionally executed. Fidelity took a concept it had already successfully financed and developed in the US, Teleport, and transport-

ed it to Europe, American management team included. Since Teleport was recently sold to AT&T for \$10bn, what's to stop Colt, which has an even larger deregulating telecommunications market at its doorstep, being worth the same?

Thus far, the omens have been relatively good. Colt is adding customers and revenues at a faster rate than anyone thought possible, and its networks are reaching breakeven more rapidly than anticipated. Frankfurt took just 22 months to achieve breakeven, against an expected three years. Still, not everyone can be a winner in Europe's deregulated telecoms market.

The trouble is that the stock market seems to think they can, judging by the valuations now being put on telecom stocks. Nearly all communications stocks have benefited from the stock market's new found love for telecoms - even the incumbent monopolies of BT, France Telecom and Deutsche Telekom. Add together the market shares being projected in the City and elsewhere for these companies and they come to a good deal more than 100 per cent. There's a bubble building and casualties are inevitable. Colt

can only hope it gets its funding away before a less heady appraisal sets in.

Can't brush this under the rug

SHAREHOLDERS in Allied Carpets have had the rug well and truly pulled from under them over the last six months. Now the company looks intent on removing the floorboards too. Not content with a poor sales performance since flotation, which precipitated a profits warning in May, we were yesterday presented with a new problem: a little local difficulty in the accounts department.

The company is providing only limited information, so for the time being it's hard to judge the severity of the damage. What is clear is that some store managers ahead of the all important year-end were booking sales as soon as the money had been received on carpet orders rather than after they have been fitted, as is company policy.

This doesn't sound like an enormous difference and indeed this is how the company was portraying it yesterday. There is no cash less to

the business, it claimed and no evidence of malpractice. Just a bit of over-enthusiasm by some store managers who aren't too familiar with accounting practices. None the less, the episode raises some worrying questions. One is how good are Allied's controls? No one expects branch managers to be chartered accountants, but they should know how - and when - to book a sale.

Another is the issue of financial gain. Allied Carpets managers are paid commission on a monthly basis linked to their sales. With pressure coming from head office, the temptation must be to push a few sales through a bit early, particularly if things aren't going too well.

And then there is the role of the auditors. It may be that this problem turns out to be a one-month aberration. If so, then Arthur Andersen, Allied's auditors, will deserve praise for uncovering the scam. But if it was more widespread and conducted over a longer period, then Andersen's position will be a good deal less comfortable.

For everyone's sake, let's hope that Allied's difficulty does not take on the scale of the irregularities uncovered at Wickes a few years ago, when profits at the DIY group

turned out to be over-stated over several years and heads had to roll. The auditors then? Arthur Andersen.

Another émigré saint and sinner

SO FAREWELL, then, Octav Botnar. We shall not see your like again. That's what they said about Robert Maxwell, too. But as the founder of Nissin UK, who died at the weekend, has proved, Britain has a peculiar penchant for nurturing émigré businessmen who turn out to be one part saint and three parts sinner.

Like Maxwell, Botnar was of east European extract, like Maxwell he had a glorious technicolour war record (German POW, French Resistance), and like Maxwell, he built a business empire on a potent mix of single-mindedness, self-belief and simple bullying. Like Maxwell, Botnar was persecuted by the authorities (in his case the Inland Revenue). But unlike Maxwell, his character was assassinated before death, rather than after it.

Yet there is no gainsaying his achievements. Botnar took two thousand rusting Datsuns in Rot-

terdam docks and turned the business into one of Britain's biggest car retailers, with 2,000 employees, a £2bn turnover and annual profits well in excess of £100m. Had it not been for Botnar, then Nissan would never have come to Sunderland and who knows where the British motor industry would have been today?

He was also a charity giver of heroic proportions. His unflashy style of philanthropy will be sorely missed by Great Ormond Street Hospital for one. Unfortunately, there were deep flaws. He thought he could abuse his Japanese suppliers with impunity. He thought he could crush dissenting voices with a tide of litigation. He thought, wrongly so, the taxmen concluded, that it was no-one's business but his own how Nissan UK chose to account for its profits.

In the end the Revenue gave up the chase. Botnar refused to and even as he died he was in the midst of an action for malicious prosecution. His death probably marks the end of the saga. But let's wait to see what instructions his will contains for the executors of the Botnar estate. It would be entirely in character for Octav to fight on from beyond the grave.

How deep are Brown's pockets?

News Analysis: Can we afford the Chancellor's new spending plans? The City is becoming sceptical

THIS AFTERNOON, Gordon Brown will set out the Government's plans for public spending over the next three years when he announces the results of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR).

He will tell the House of Commons both exactly how much the Government intends to spend between 1999 and 2002 and how it intends to allocate this total between the various government departments.

Assuming that the increases in total spending are more or less in line with the estimates set out by the Treasury in last month's Economic and Fiscal Strategy Report (EFSR), the Government will have a little over £340bn to play with in the next fiscal year. And assuming that recent newspaper stories are correct, the departments of Health and Education will be the winners, both looking set to receive increases in their budgets of around 4 per cent.

The spin doctors have been keen to present Mr Brown as an "Iron Chancellor" taking a prudent and responsible approach to fiscal policy. But, according to some estimates, Mr Brown's spending plans are far more expansionary than those of his predecessors.

David Coleman of CIBC World Markets calculates that between 1998 and 2002 Mr Brown is planning to increase government spending by 9 per cent in real terms - that is, excluding the effects of inflation. This compares with a projected real increase of just 2.75 per cent over the same time period under the Conservative government, says Mr Coleman.

So just how prudent are the Chancellor's plans on public spending, and has the apparent loosening of the fiscal stance made the chances of yet another increase in interest rates more likely? Most economists are agreed that the Government's spending plans amount to a loosening of fiscal policy over the medium term. Mr Coleman's view that the EFSR has "locked in a loosening of fiscal policy" seems to be shared by most economists.

BY LEA PATERSON

If the Chancellor's spending plans are in line with those set out in the EFSR, total government spending will rise by 2.75 per cent in real terms every year between the fiscal years of 1999 to 2002, significantly more than most in the City were expecting following the Budget in March. And according to some, this headline figure of 2.75 per cent understates the true magnitude of the proposed increases in spending. Two issues in particular have attracted attention - the treatment of the Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC) and the reduction in outlays on debt interest.

Taking the WFTC first, the Government has signalled an intention to treat WFTC - the replacement for Family Credit - as tax rather than expenditure. According to Treasury estimates, in the EFSR some 20 per cent of the total cost of WFTC is treated as tax, and so does not form part of the 2.75 per cent spending cap. If you take the view that WFTC is effectively money paid out to those in need and so amounts to a benefit, then the Government's spending plans start to look a touch on the generous side.

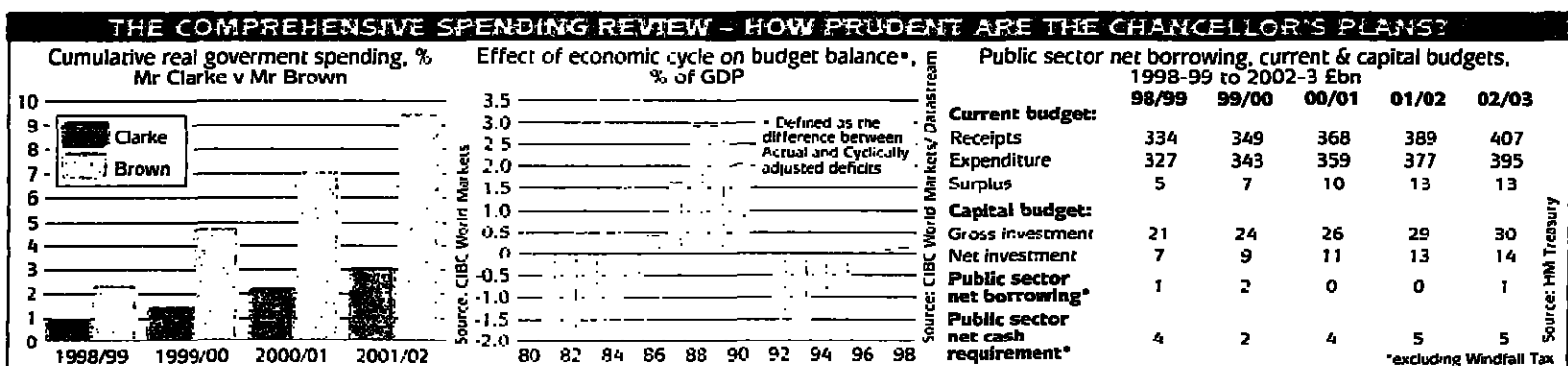
The second issue that has attracted comment is the growth in the so-called "control total". Before the EFSR was published, the Government would distinguish between the "control total" and those parts of public expenditure - such as debt interest and unemployment benefit - that were historically seen as being outside its control.

This distinction has now been abolished, although some still believe it is of relevance. John Hawksworth of PriceWaterhouseCoopers has calculated that the control total is set to rise by 3.4 per cent a year, largely because of falls in payments on debt interest. This is important, according to some economists, because if "non-controllable" items like debt interest begin to rise, then total government expenditure could



The Health Department looks set to be a winner in the spending review, benefiting from a 4 per cent rise in its budget

Tom Pilon



spiral out of control. Treasury sources, however, call the "control total" definition "arbitrary", saying that if the Government has managed to cut overall borrowing and so cut the level of debt interest, then why shouldn't it use the proceeds to boost spending elsewhere?

Whichever way you cut it, the proposed public spending plans are more generous than most commentators were expecting. But expenditure is just one

part of the equation. The other - receipts - typically receives far less attention. Does it matter how much the Government is planning to spend as long as it balances its books one way or the other: that is, as long as the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) is zero?

The answer to this, according to economists, is that it largely depends on how the Government chooses to balance the books. Many believe that if in-

creased government expenditure is balanced by tax hikes, then the overall effect on the inflation outlook of the increased spending is neutral. However, the Treasury is expecting to finance at least part of the spending increase through the sale of national assets, widely seen as being inflationary.

Some economists have used issues like the treatment of WFTC and increases in the control total to paint a bleak pic-

ture of the Government's finances. Others have argued that the inflationary outlook is best examined by considering expenditure less tax, and on this measure the picture looks rather better, although perhaps not as cautious and prudent as some close to the Government like to make out.

The consensus view is that, at least to a certain extent, the Government has loosened fiscal policy. And when you take

into account the fact that economic slowdowns have historically been bad news for the public finances, the outlook for the Government's Budget starts to seem that bit worse.

If the Bank of England - now studying this issue in depth - agrees with the majority view, then monetary policy will have to be that much tighter. The CSR could help tip the balance in favour of another hike in interest rates.

IN BRIEF

House inflation holds steady

UK HOUSE prices rose by 1.3 per cent in the second quarter of 1998, according to the Halifax house price survey, compared with a revised figure of 1.1 per cent in the first quarter. Over the year to the second quarter, prices were up by 5.5 per cent, up 0.3 points on the first quarter. Halifax said the figures were in line with its view that house prices would end the year about 5 per cent higher than in 1997.

Air traffic grows

BAA said passenger travel at its seven UK airports rose by 7.3 per cent to 10.2 million in June because of an increase in low-fare flights. Stansted Airport near London saw the largest overall growth of 29.1 per cent as BAA's low-fare airline Go! started services. European scheduled services from Stansted rose by 87.3 per cent. Gatwick grew by 5.9 per cent and Heathrow by 3.7 per cent, while the BAA's three Scottish airports grew by 5.9 per cent.

Salomon chiefs

SALOMON Smith Barney, the brokerage unit of US bank Travelers, has appointed Jim Boshart and Ron Freeman as co-chief executive officers of Salomon Smith Barney Europe to replace Peter Middleton, who announced his retirement this month.

Mr Freeman joined the firm in New York in 1973. He rose to head of European investment banking before joining the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development for six years. He rejoined Salomon in 1997 as co-chairman of global investment banking.

Mr Boshart joined Smith Barney in 1990 and most recently was vice-chairman and co-head of investment banking in New York.

Centrica deal

CENTRICA has renegotiated a second "take or pay" gas contract with Total Oil Marine. Under the deal prices for Total Oil Marine will, in return for a compensation payment from Centrica, be reduced to market levels on around 500 million therms of gas.

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C&W is forced to scale down its Italian alliance

CABLE & WIRELESS'S plans to forge an alliance with Telecom Italia, the Italian state telecom operator, suffered a blow yesterday just three months after the two companies agreed to join forces.

Telecom Italia will not be buying C&W's 20 per cent shareholding in Bouygues Telecom, the French mobile phone operator. Plans for Telecom Italia to take shareholdings in C&W's West Indian and US operations are also likely to be shelved. C&W said it was "unlikely" that Telecom Italia would make the investments "in the foreseeable future".

The news unravels the deal announced by C&W and Tele-

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

com Italia in March, which involved the Italian company taking over assets worth \$2bn (£1.2bn) from C&W.

Despite the setback, C&W insisted that negotiations with Telecom Italia over the second part of the agreement – for the two companies to share traffic on their international networks and jointly serve multinational customers – were making good progress.

Plans for the sale of the Bouygues Telecom stake were changed when the mobile operator's other shareholders decided to exercise an option to buy the stake at the same price

at which C&W had proposed to sell it to Telecom Italia. The Italian group is also part of a consortium which has a controlling stake in Bouygues Telecom. The other consortium members are the Bouygues construction group and Jean-Claude Decaux, the French advertising magnate. Veba, the German utility and Paribas, the French bank, have direct shareholdings in Bouygues Telecom.

However, sources said Telecom Italia had backed away from the West Indian and US investments after deciding that they were too expensive. "The assets sales were always going to be difficult," one analyst said. "Telecom Italia has a new

chairman, and basically C&W just got a little bit greedy."

Observers said the breakdown of the deal was of limited importance to C&W. Although the company had trumpeted the alliance as a major step forward, few analysts thought Telecom Italia was the ideal partner. They argued that the Italian group's limited presence in the rest of Europe did little to improve C&W's presence on the Continent.

The latest announcement gives C&W more scope to link up with a larger US or European operator. At the time of C&W's results announcement, Dick Brown, the chief executive, said the group might end

up "dancing with an elephant" in the form of one of the major US telecoms operators.

This year C&W has already bought MCI's Internet backbone business in a £380m swoop. C&W is now negotiating with MCI about buying its Internet client base, which the US group has been forced to put up for sale in order to receive European Union clearance for its merger with WorldCom. C&W said it would still get £465m for the Bouygues Telecom stake, keeping it on track to meet the target of raising £1bn from asset sales set by Mr Brown last year.

C&W shares closed unchanged at 788p.

Why Hashimoto couldn't get things moving in Japan



HAMISH MCRAE

The appearance of vigour was a camouflage for the continuing impotence of the political system

ONCE UPON a time hardly anyone outside the country knew, without looking it up, who the current Japanese prime minister might be. They always came from the same Liberal Democratic Party, they were changed every few months, and actual power was invariably located elsewhere.

But Ryutaro Hashimoto seemed different. He gave the appearance of vigour. To the ordinary Japanese he seemed, with his sideboards and his swagger, set more in the image of an American politician than the elderly shuffling LDP men they had come to regard as normal.

American officials were thrown by this image too. Because he sounded as though he was a person who could get things done, they assumed that he could deliver the economic reforms the US sought. Hence his resignation was initially seen as a negative by both the share and foreign exchange markets.

Then it suddenly dawned on them that Mr Hashimoto might have been part of the problem rather than part of the solution – that the appearance of vigour was a camouflage for the continuing impotence of the Japanese political system, and in particular its inability to deliver structural reforms.

Successive US administrations have been frustrated by Japan's tardiness in adopting policies urged upon it by America. They tend to attribute this to obstruction by Japan's political leaders. In part it may have been, but more usually it is a function of the inability of the political process to do anything without first achieving a consensus. Since there was no consensus, nothing could move.

The immediate cause for the LDP's unpopularity is shown in the graphs: there has been a collapse in Japanese industrial production following a collapse in Japanese exports to East Asia.

The scale of the fall is off the wall: never in post-war experience have Japanese companies experienced anything like this. Some 45 per cent of Japanese exports went to East Asia, and demand from that market fell by more than 40 per cent quarter-on-quarter in the first three months of this year.

This year was always going to be very difficult, but this collapse of exports to East Asia is the factor that has led to real recession. It is real re-

cession that has unseated the prime minister, largely because his officials repeatedly and persistently refused to acknowledge that this might occur. No preparation was done.

Paradoxically the outlook for Japanese exports to East Asia seems to be starting to improve. After the catastrophic first quarter demand stabilised in the second. JP Morgan, the US bank, reckons that Asian demand has hit bottom and that the further falls in the yen will start to lift exports in the second half of this year. (You can just see a slight indication of a turn with the upkick on the right of the right-hand graph.)

Let's assume that the immediate cause of Japan's collapse in demand at least gets no worse and exports recover a bit. No government action is needed there, because this is not a political problem – even if politicians are carrying the can.

That still leaves the underlying weaknesses of the Japanese economy, which do need political action. How does the checklist for the next prime minister stack up?

The first item is government support for Japan's banks. The plan was outlined a few days ago and there is no reason to suppose that it will not be implemented.

If it were to fall to bits then all bets would be off: the mountain of bad debts accumulated by the Japanese banks can only be carried by the government, and if that means the Japanese taxpayers will have to foot part of the bill, then they will merely be experiencing the same pain that has been inflicted on the taxpayers of many other countries, including the US, France, Sweden, Finland and Mexico.

The second item is tax reform. That is not going to

happen in the next few months. Of course some tax reforms will take place, but nothing substantial will happen. Essentially, the system has to be made less progressive – taxes have to be cut at the top – and loopholes have to be closed.

This might seem uncontroversial: cutting tax rates and broadening the tax base has become standard textbook tax reform elsewhere in the world. In Japan, however, there is not yet any political consensus for such a move. The relatively rich, who would benefit from the tax cuts, have no political clout; the many beneficiaries from the array of loopholes have enormous clout.

If nothing significant will happen for a while, the question becomes whether the next political upheaval, the one coming up in a year or 18 months, will be the one that achieves the ability to cut through the opposition.

The third item – well, not an item, more an area – will be regulatory reform. This is immensely complex, encompassing such things as land use, the retail industry, building regulations, labour market rules and so on. This is going to be a 10-year job, not something that can be done by one government.

I think the thing for outsiders to look for will not be news of the myriad structural reforms that we will be told about in the months to come, simply because it is impossible from a distance to judge whether any one reform is real or mere window-dressing.

The thing to look for will be opposition to reform. The more opposition there is and the more vocal that opposition becomes, the more likely it is that real reforms will be on the table, not make-believe reforms. As so often in Japan, bad news will actually turn out to be good, while good news is often really bad.

In the same vein, the present political upheavals are probably good news. The rejection of Mr Hashimoto gives a signal that there is some support for radicalism in Japan. That support does not yet have critical mass, but it is building slowly.

Do not expect Japan to be a significant source of economic demand in the world for a while yet. But the ground is moving, and in three or four years' time, we could be starting to talk of a modest Japanese economic renaissance.

Prescott pledges funds for coal areas

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

JOHN PRESCOTT, the Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday pledged government funds to revitalise the mining communities devastated by the pit closures of the 1980s.

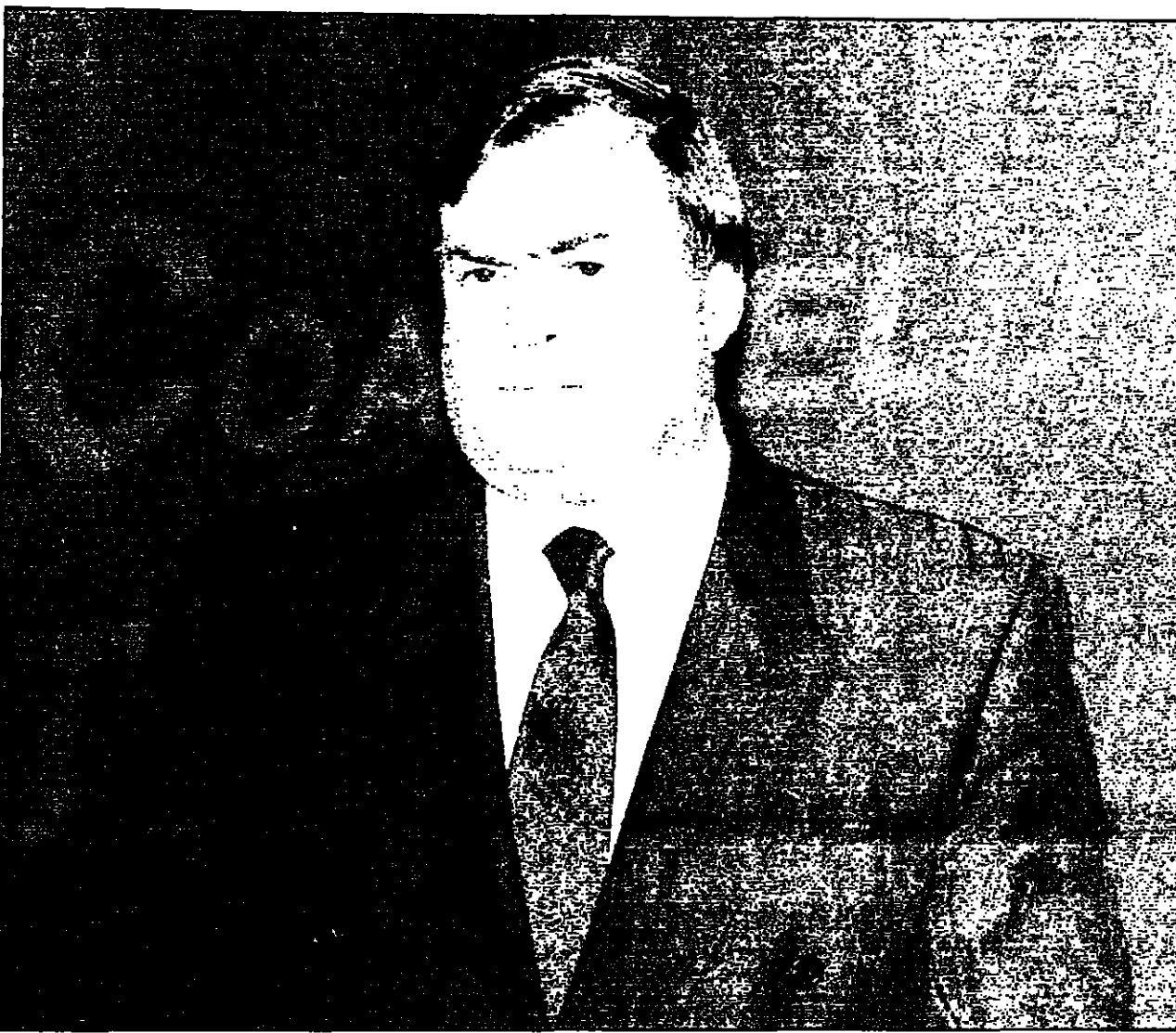
However, he declined to specify how much the Government would spend, and postponed until autumn a decision on a plan to create up to 50,000 jobs in coalfields areas.

At a press conference in the former mining village of Ollerton, in Nottinghamshire, Mr Prescott said the Government would be "a major partner in supporting and financing" the Coalfields Regeneration Trust, a new body which would co-ordinate the economic revival of former coalmining areas.

He said he could not "pre-empt the Treasury's Comprehensive Spending Review" due out today, but added that the Government needed "to spend more in coalfields areas".

Mr Prescott sidestepped the thorny issue of whether companies wishing to invest in the regions should be given tax incentives to stimulate business activity and employment, a proposal made by the government-appointed coalfields task force.

The task force estimates that a series of tax breaks could create up to 50,000 jobs in the areas. Mr Prescott said he would respond to the task force's report at a coalmining conference to be held in the autumn.



John Prescott in Ollerton yesterday. He said the Government would be a leading partner in the Coalfields Regeneration Trust, but avoided the issue of tax breaks for companies investing in the areas. Dave Snowden

VW sells Cosworth Racing to Ford

VOLKSWAGEN'S luxury car unit Audi yesterday confirmed it is selling Cosworth Racing, the racing engine division of Cosworth Engineering, to Ford of the US. Audi did not disclose the price, thought to be about £10m.

The sale of the racing division, which makes engines for Formula One and the US CART series, came a day after Audi agreed to buy all of Cosworth, which also makes engines for Bentley cars and engine castings, from defence group Vickers for £117m.

Cosworth Racing has worked with Ford for more than 30 years and has a four-year contract to supply the US car maker with Formula One engines. It is involved with the Minardi and Tyrrell teams, whose cars finished eighth and ninth respectively in Sunday's British Grand Prix.

Audi said the sale of the racing activities to Ford will enable it to focus on Cosworth's other divisions of engine development, castings and manufacture. Cosworth, based in Northampton, also makes V8 engines for Bentley. Last year Cosworth had operating profits of £5.8m on sales of £116.9m, including £18.2m of sales to Rolls-Royce Motor Cars.

Audi is likely to use Cosworth to develop and make engines for Rolls-Royce Motor Cars after BMW last week said it would stop supplying engines and components to Rolls next July. BMW had threatened to stop delivering components if it lost the battle to acquire Rolls.

In June, Vickers shareholders approved the sale of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars to VW for £479m, ending a tussle between the two German car makers.

Bloomberg

'Bear hug' likely for Nationwide

BY ANDREW VERITY

NATIONWIDE, THE world's biggest building society, faces the prospect of a hostile bid for the society if its 4.5 million members vote to convert it to a bank in nine days.

Senior City analysts believe the society would open itself up to a hostile bid if it pursues a deal with a trade bidder in the event of a "yes" vote. Abbey National, Halifax and Lloyd's TSB are named as likely bidders.

Simon Willis, banking analyst at Charterhouse Tilney, said: "We would expect Halifax to mount a competitive bid as well as Lloyd's TSB."

"It is wrong to rule out the possibility of a hostile bid be-

cause a buyer could go over the heads of members."

Hugh Pye of Flemings said Nationwide members should be aware of the chance of a "bear hug", a semi-hostile approach for the society ahead of a full vote for demutualisation.

"Now would be the time for an institution to let it be known through the weekend press that if Nationwide members vote in favour of demutualising, they would be a buyer."

Until now, the assumption has always been that Nationwide could only be bought by a friendly bidder if members voted to convert.

Nationwide says the vote, to be decided on 23 July, is still running neck and neck.

Bid report boosts Spring Ram stock

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

SHARES IN Spring Ram, the bathroom and kitchen business, surged by more than 20 per cent yesterday as speculation mounted that the troubled company was about to receive a takeover bid.

Rumours that a financial buyer, possibly a venture capital fund, was ready to pounce on Spring Ram were bolstered by news that the investment bank Robert Fleming had built up a 11.29 per cent stake in the company.

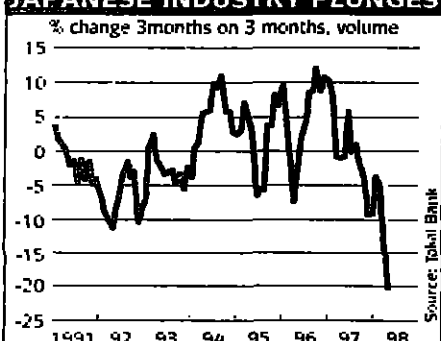
Fleming was said to be acting for a group of investors which plans to revive Spring Ram's fortunes by buying the entire company and then sell-

ing off its bathroom business. The investment bank was thought last week to have bought the 8.2 per cent stake in the company sold off by Bill Rooney, Spring Ram's co-founder who was ousted five years ago.

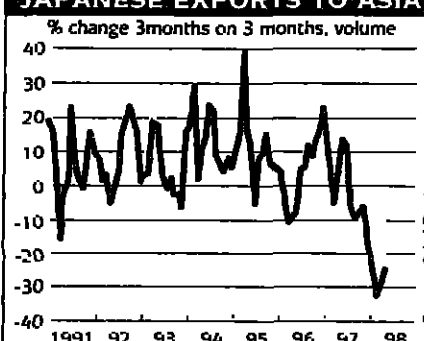
Analysts believe that a break-up of the group would be supported by Spring Ram's shareholders, who have seen the shares fall by more than 80 per cent over the past three years. The stock yesterday closed up 29.41 per cent at 14.75p, still well below their peak of 77p reached in 1994.

Roger Regan, the chairman of Spring Ram, said the company "had received no formal approach".

JAPANESE INDUSTRY PLUNGES



JAPANESE EXPORTS TO ASIA



COMPANY RESULTS						
Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	Ex-Dividend
Achard Group (F)	202.5m (147.6m)	37.3m (28.3m)	10.4p (8.0p)	2.3p (1.825p)	12.10.98	07.09.98
Bentley (F)	15.81m (15.56m)	2.006m (2.743m)	12.5p (16.8p)	7.7p (7.0p)	14.09.98	20.07.98
Druck Holdings (F)	58.8m (54.5m)	11.282m (9.693m)	11.27p (8.43p)	1.95p (1.73p)	01.10.98	20.07.98
Elle & Emman (F)	732.0m (645.3m)	24.7p (22.5p)	10.6p (10.0p)	1.0p (1.0p)	05.10.98	20.07.98
Shibaura (F)	77.2m (63.6m)	6.6m (6.3m)	5.9p (5.6p)	1.5p (1.3p)	25.10.98	24.08.98

(F) = float (I) = interim EPS = pre-tax earnings * Dividend to be paid as a RD

Baltic rebels claim a mandate for change

THE DISSIDENT shareholders from the Baltic Exchange shipping market who were voted on to the ruling board with huge majorities yesterday called for a "fresh start".

Peter Kerr-Dineen, joint chairman of Howe Robinson, and Jervis Devonshire of Lykiardopolis (Chartering), received three times as many votes as rival Jan Bagger of Hans Bagger.

The two dissidents want shareholders to be paid a dividend, and are also proposing a range of measures to be taken to cut an annual operating deficit of £1m.

They will formally take up their positions at an annual general meeting tomorrow when the chairman, Eric Shawyer of EA Gibson, is to stand aside in

favour of ex-Clarkson chairman Hugh McCoy.

Mr Kerr-Dineen said yesterday that he had a clear mandate for action as he had received "one of the biggest votes anyone can remember". There are 13 other board members apart from the Howe Robinson executive and Mr Devonshire, but Mr Kerr-Dineen believes that "given the vote and the open debate that preceded it I am sure the board will want to consider a fresh start for the Baltic".

The two dissidents had earlier accused the board of failing to move with the times and of wasting hundreds of thousands of pounds through commissioning reports which were

never acted upon. An open letter to members ahead of the election called on the board to reduce the operating deficit by ensuring that the cost overruns from subsidised catering were brought under control.

The letter also criticised the way the board dealt with a Deloitte & Touche report it had commissioned for £300,000 on how to extricate itself from financial problems.

Jim Buckley, the Baltic secretary, had said that operating losses only reflected the way investment income subsidised other activities, as it had done since the Baltic began. Mr Buckley said the Deloitte report had been shelved only after a majority of members made it clear that they did not agree with its findings.

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Alternatively, meet us at The Institute of Directors, 116 Pall Mall, London SW1 - nearest tube: Piccadilly - Thursday 23 July (6.15pm for 6.30pm) or at Manchester Business School, Monday 3 August (6.15pm for 6.30pm).

Manchester Business School, Booth Street West, Manchester, M15 6PB.
E-mail: a.powell@fbs.mbs.ac.uk WWW: http://www.mbs.ac.uk

MANCHESTER BUSINESS SCHOOL

[illegible]

Boom could be over for pub groups


IS THE pub share boom over? Since the independent pub chains were created out of the Government's controversial Beer Orders, which forced the major brewers to dump more than 11,000 of their outlets, they have been the darlings of the stock market, enjoying glamorous share ratings.

But it could now be going horribly wrong. The shock Regent Inns profits warning, which halved its shares, and worries about the industry leader, JD Wetherspoon, have left many pub shares looking as flat as yesterday's pint.

Wetherspoon confirmed it had suffered because of the World Cup. It bans television sets from its houses and finance director Jim Clarke said sales fell by at least 10 per cent in one week last month. He believes the downturn is now over: "It's something we knew was coming and now it's finished." BT Alex Brown cut its forecast some weeks ago; others to lower expectations include Panmure Gordon, now expecting £20m against £23m.

Wetherspoon shares fell 2.5p to 284p; they have come down from 341.5p this year.

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

BT and Credit Lyonnais are among the investment groups still advocating a Wetherspoon buy. The two houses remained firmly committed to the pub chains despite the Regent Inns' debacle. Even the Old English Pub Co, which endured a rights issue flop probably as a result of the Regent fiasco, is rated a buy by CL. The shares managed a 12.5p gain to 296.5p; they have been 384.5p. Regent dipped 2.5p to 178.5p and Slug & Lettuce, the old Grosvenor Inns, lost 14.5p to 220p.

The rest of the stock market had an uneventful session, with Footsie

ending 28.5 points (after 42.9) higher at 5,858.2. The mid cap shares made headway but it was yet another dismal session for the small caps, with the index off 2.3 to 3,576.5p.

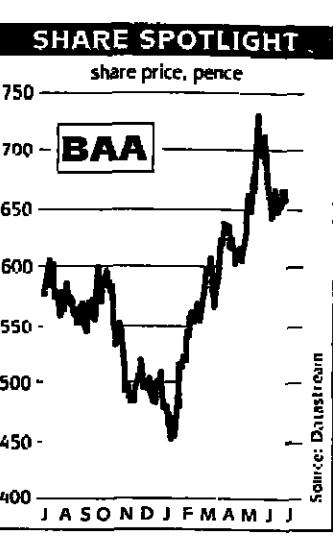
Moderately encouraging developments in Japan and an attempted International Monetary Fund bailout of the stricken Russian economy provided some support.

Trading was subdued. Turnover was boosted by a new issue, Coca-Cola Beverages, but an incorrect trade distorted the overall volume figure.

The shares were priced at 160p; they touched 192.5p, closing just 9p higher at 169.5p. The group is an automatic candidate for inclusion in the mid cap index; much of the heavy dealing activity could relate to tracker funds building their positions ahead of September's revision of the various indices.

BAA, the airports group, was stuck on the runway despite Dresner Kleinwort Benson signalling a target of up to 780p. The shares fell 3.5p to 660p.

Banks drew support from the forthcoming results season. Alliance & Leicester, the building



society-cum-bank, led the pack with a 312.5p gain to 824.5p.

Unilever added 22p to 661.5p on BT Alex Brown support and the advertising group WPP put on 12p to 467p, a peak.

Rentokil, the environmental group, shaded 3.25p to 432.75p as Henderson Crosthwaite suggested a switch to Hayes, the business support group, off 18p to 1,017p.

Trafford Park Estates held at 184p after the property group surprisingly capitulated to the hostile bid from Green Property. It seems TPE became aware Green was likely to win and decided to surrender to give its shareholders the chance to accept the Green cash offer, which expires on Friday.

ILP, a paper and printing group, firmed 5.5p to 36.5p after resuming talks which could lead to a 40p-a-share offer.

Parco was little changed at 233.5p. The car parts distributor denied it had received a £200m offer from its larger rival Finlist. It was said Finlist made its approach after Parco's profits warning, two weeks ago. According to Parco, the proposal from Finlist's advisers related to possible cooperation.

The petrol retailer Saverned moved to 102.5p. Talks with a mystery bidder are, it seems, off. But there remains a soaking suspicion that the group is still vulnerable to a strike.

Next, the clothing retailer, was the subject of busy trading with the shares off 13p to 491p. Turnover topped 24 million shares following a big institutional sale. Tiger Man-

agement, the US fund which specialises in recovery shares, was also active, picking up another 1.1 million shares, lifting its stake to 7.29 per cent.

Colt Telecom's planned £600m cash-raising exercise failed to dull the market's enthusiasm, with the shares up 12.5p to 2,912.5p.

Talk of merger activity among department stores gave House of Fraser a 4.5p lift to 163p. Debenhams continued to recover with a 6.5p gain to 349.5p.

Computerland led the IT brigade with a 52.5p gain to 360p, and Logica improved 12.5p to 2,005p after announcing a £10m ten-year outsourcing contract.

Spring Ram Corporation, the hard-pressed bathroom and kitchen group, hardened 2.5p to 147.5p after the founder Bill Rooney sold his remaining shares and stories resurfaced of a break-up bid. The investment group Robert Fleming, which increased its stake to 11.29 per cent, could be involved.

THE STOCKBROKER Teather & Greenwood remains a supporter of the quaintly named bars chain, Po Na Na. Although down 3p to 109.5p the shares are one of the best performers on the fringe of the market. The analyst Nigel Popham believes profits this year will hit £2m, with £3m next. He suggests the shares are not expensive, as the group's North African-style bars face limited competition.

BALDWIN'S Industrial Services, a crane hire group, makes its debut today. Placed at 112p by Charterhouse Tilney, the share are expected to open at 115p.

THE COMPUTER games group Rage Software rose 0.75p to 14.25p as stockbroker Durlacher upgraded its forecasts. It now expects profits of £803,000 for the year just ended and £1.5m next. The company lost £15.4m in 1997.

US hire sales look good for Ashtead

ASSTEAD HAS given investors a run for their money in recent years as the plant hire group has shifted its focus away from hiring standard plant to the construction industry, towards a wider customer base.

Ashtead shares have risen almost ninefold in the last five years as the company has re-invented itself as what it optimistically describes as an "outsourcing company" supplying everything from portable loos to water pumping equipment for golf courses. Construction now accounts for under 40 per cent of sales.

The shares jumped 12.5p to 245.5p yesterday on better than expected figures. Full year profits rose by a third to £27.3m, and the company is talking bullishly about expansion - both in the UK and the US.

Ashtead opened 94 new depots last year, taking the total to 275. Though the company's A-Plant division is the market leader in the UK, there is much more scope in the fragmented American market in which Ashtead ranks only 12th.

However, with prices soaring in America, Ashtead has not bought a business there for two years and is more likely to grow by opening greenfield sites. Deals look higher on the agenda in Britain where the Sheriff tool hire business was acquired for £40m last August.

Trading is encouraging: UK rental rates are up 2 per cent. They have fallen in America, but this is considered a good thing as high prices have encouraged customers to buy their equipment rather than rent.

Ashtead prospered in the last recession as customers opted to rent rather than tie up capital in their own plant. Whether that would happen to the same degree again is open to question. But on Beeson Gregory's £51.5m forecast, a forward multiple of 30, the shares look a decent hold.

INVESTMENT
EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

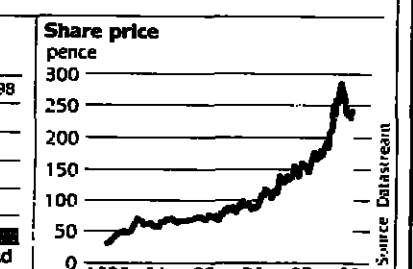
ASSTEAD GROUP: AT A GLANCE
Market value: £743.6, share price: 245.5p

Trading record	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Turnover (£m)	43.8	67.3	95.9	147.6	202.5
Pre-tax profits (£m)	7.1	13.6	16.8	28.3	37.3
Earnings per share (p)	10.7	13.0	16.0	8.0	10.4
Dividends per share (p)	2.3	3.0	3.7	1.8	2.3

Operating profit by division, £m

Division	1997	1998
A-Plant (UK Rental)	15.0	18.0
Sunbelt (US Rental)	10.0	12.0
Ashtead Technology	2.3	7.3

Share price



Source: Datastream

cided enough was enough, knocking Skillsgroup shares 13p to 283p, even though the company issued a solid set of interim results.

Although the headline figures showed both turnover and profit falling, this was down to the P&P computer reselling business, most of which was sold last year. The core operations, which consist of the QA consultancy and training arm and the Acuma computer server distribution side, produced good results. Profits rose by 44 per cent to £5.6m on turnover of £77.3m, up by a fifth.

Skillsgroup's prospects look good, too. QA is well placed to implement enterprise resource planning software packages such as Baan and SAP in medium-sized companies, most of which are only just beginning to update their computer systems. Acuma will continue to benefit from growing demand, although there is the long-term threat that manufacturers will choose to sell their products directly rather than relying on distributors. Meanwhile, Skillsgroup's recruitment subsidiary offers the company some protection from the growing IT skills shortage.

Profits should hit £14m this financial year, rising to £16m by November 1999. That leaves the shares trading on a multiple of 20 times next year's earnings - incredibly cheap by the inflated standards of the IT sector.

But Skillsgroup is still relatively unproven as a systems integrator. Investors hoping for further short-term upturn are best off looking elsewhere.

Skillsgroup falls off IT bandwagon

IT IS ALWAYS better to travel hopefully than arrive, as shareholders in Skillsgroup found out yesterday. In the past year or so, the computer group has transformed itself from a standard distributor into a fully fledged services outfit. It has also enjoyed a spectacular re-rating in the City, watching its share price more than double since November.

But yesterday shareholders de-

Jitters on Ellis & Everard deal

ELLIS & EVERARD is no stranger to acquisitions. Over the past five years, the chemical distributor has bought 19 businesses. This strategy of growing by bolt-on deals has been very successful, and has helped to transform Ellis into one of the major players in the rapidly consolidating chemicals industry.

So why should yesterday's \$38m purchase of the US polymers distributor PP be any different? For a start the deal, funded by a £23m share placing, is not a bolt-on acquisition. Ellis & Everard have no polymer business in the US, and the integration of PP into its existing US chemical distribution unit will take some time to yield benefits. Secondly, unlike many of its past acquisitions, PP has struggled to make profits - a measly \$800,000 on \$170m sales.

Ellis & Everard admitted yesterday it will take time to turn around PP when it said it would dilute earnings this year, despite projected cost savings of £1m a year. The market marked the shares down 1.5p to 289p.

Caution over the acquisition overshadowed a very good set of results, with profits up to £31.1m from £28.6m despite tough market conditions. But jitters over PP and fears of a cyclical downturn in chemicals will dominate going forward. Despite the low earnings multiple of ten - based on 1999 profit forecasts of £25m - the stock is no more than a hold.

IN BRIEF

Lloyd's names get a higher offer

LLOYD'S NAMES yesterday received a strong sign of the true value of their holdings as Hardy Underwriting offered 25p for every £1 of underwriting capacity. In a deal worth £9.4m, Hardy trebled the price offered last year when it began buying control of Syndicate 382, a helicopter insurer. Shares in Hardy rose as it announced a successful placing worth £21m to finance the deal.

Logica's £10m

LOGICA said it has won a £10m, 10-year outsourcing contract from the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) to develop and manage its information systems and resources to improve the organisation's Scotland-wide monitoring of children at risk. Logica said it will take on full management of the SCRA's existing IT assets and will also develop CHRIS (Children's Reporter Information Systems). The contract, negotiated under the Government's Private Finance Initiative (PFI), will involve linking 37 SCRA offices across Scotland.

Gubbay takeover

TRING International Group said it had signed heads of agreement on the acquisition of Raymond Gubbay (RG), the concert, opera and ballet promoter, for £6.25m. Tring, which also agreed to buy Harvey Goldsmith Entertainment at the beginning of July, said the acquisition of RG represented a reverse takeover under the Stock Exchange rules and was subject to due diligence, contract, financing and approval of Tring's shareholders. Tring said the total proposed consideration is £6.25m and comprises £3.75m cash and the remainder in Tring new ordinary shares. RG promotes about 250 live performances annually, mostly in the UK, and has a turnover of approximately £10m.

BA in Polish deal

BRITISH AIRWAYS and LOT Polish Airlines have agreed to an extensive code-share agreement covering eight weekly flights between the UK and Poland, which will come into effect on 10 August. The jointly-coded services will be between Manchester and Warsaw, with both carriers offering three weekly return services each, as well as on LOT's two return flights per week connecting Gatwick with Gdansk.

Bricks and mortar appeal for banker

JOHN MANSEY, the chairman of Robert Fleming, the blue-blooded investment bank, has taken over as chairman of Delancey Estates, George Soros's British property vehicle which is run by James Riblat, Sir John Riblat's son.

Not that the Mr Manser is new to the world of bricks and mortar: "I've always been interested in property. I'm a director of two other property companies, Capital Shopping Centres and Shaftesbury."

As for his new appointment, Mr Manser says: "I've known the Riblat family for more years than I can remember. Jamie asked me to join. I hope I can bring something to the party."

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK



So did anyone clean up on the betting front? "Yes - mostly my secretary", Mr Raphael says. "There were more losers than winners". Sounds like the law...

president of R&D in Europe and Dr John LaMatta assumes the role of senior vice-president of Worldwide Discovery.

TIM RUSSELL has just joined HSBC Asset Management as head of UK Equities. He has spent five years at Lazards, the last three as head of the UK desk. In 1997 he was voted Investment Week UK Income Fund Manager of the Year.

OSERVE THE Hand of Fate: Adidas copped it with their ludicrous posters: "Historians - its Beckham". Now the Nike posters look equally unfortunate: "Ronaldo - Looks like it won't go to penalties." Perhaps the sportswear companies should save their sponsorship money and spend it on developing better sportswear, or something.

The hedge fund wizard did this via his Quantum Realty Fund, which is in turn managed by Soros Fund Management. Mr Soros's son Robert is also involved in the business, and is apparently a buddy of Jamie Riblat.

So far so good. I feel I should nevertheless point out that the 1996 winner of the same award was none other than Peter Young, presently under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) for moving outside his investment criteria whilst at Morgan Grenfell Asset Management.

SIR PETER Middleton, the former Whitehall mandarin who stood down as chairman of Barclays Capital in April, has got a berth at AT Kearney, the management consultancy.

Colin Wagner, who came into Delancey two years ago as caretaker manager, will stay on as a non-executive director. Mr Wagner says that he expects the group to be "quite active in investment terms."

Obviously this has nothing to do with Mr Russell. It must, however, colour his appreciation of the the prize, I would have thought.

AT Kearney is part of EDS, the American computer consultancy which seems to have scooped up nearly every British government IT contract going. As such Sir Peter, who is joining as a part time adviser on "financial and business issues", should have the right experience to scout for new orders.

During his career, mainly spent at Pfizer's research centre at Sandwich, Kent, Dr Campbell has played a big role in inventing a whole range of drugs, including Cardura and Novasc.

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He joined the Treasury in 1982 and rose to permanent secretary in 1983. He then joined the late BZW in 1991, and is still a non-executive director at Bass, General Accident and United Utilities.

A graduate from Birmingham University, Dr Campbell is married with two sons, and something of a football fan. He still turns out for a Sunday league. I am told.

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FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Country	Sterling Spot	1 month	3 month	Dollar Spot	1 month	3 month	D-Mark Spot
UK	1.0000			0.6090	0.6100	0.6120	0.3385
Australia	2.6628	2.6588	2.6509	1.5217	1.5219	1.5223	0.9013
Austria	20.792	20.753	20.680	12.663	12.663	12.663	7.0737
Belgium	60.123	60.174	60.330	37.115	37.043	36.922	20.625
Canada	2.4278	2.4221	2.4116	1.6786	1.6776	1.6769	0.9318
Denmark	11.264	11.230	11.166	6.8959	6.8908	6.8833	3.9178
ECU	1.4947	1.4902	1.4816	1.0986	1.1000	1.1029	0.8443
Finland	8.9850	8.9531	8.8943	5.4720	5.4617	5.4435	3.0474
France	2.9543	2.9438	2.9233	6.0195	5.9983	5.9720	3.3520
Germany	9.903	9.868	9.801	1.7992	1.7957	1.7894	1.0000
Greece	235.42	234.38	232.73	7.7720	7.8255	7.8785	4.3073
Hong Kong	49.467	49.263	48.962	2.9670	3.0051	3.0380	1.6602
Ireland	12.725	12.740	12.787	7.7500	7.7720	7.8255	4.3073
Italy	1.7742	1.7739	1.7735	1.7735	1.7735	1.7735	0.9867
Japan	291.7	290.7	289.6	1.7735	1.7735	1.7735	0.9867
Malaysia	2.3137	2.2991	2.2727	1.4031	1.4031	1.4031	0.9867
Mexico	6.9210	7.1144	7.3407	4.3400	4.4925	4.6450	2.3427
Netherlands	3.3315	3.3192	3.2970	2.0289	2.0248	2.0178	0.2877
New Zealand	3.7220	3.7151	3.7080	0.2177	0.2177	0.2177	0.2877
Norway	3.2583	3.2553	3.2523	7.2512	7.2512	7.2512	4.2525
Portugal	302.32	301.46	299.77	184.12	183.90	183.66	102.33
Saudi Arabia	6.1585	6.1518	6.1391	3.7506	3.7506	3.7506	0.9867
Singapore	2.8193	2.8090	2.7987	1.1710	1.1703	1.1696	0.9543
South Africa	10.0905	10.1511	10.4090	6.1453	6.2315	6.3703	3.4155
Spain	250.77	250.07	248.72	152.73	152.73	152.73	0.9867
Sweden	13.190	13.152	13.078	6.0236	6.0236	6.0236	4.4946
Switzerland	2.4942	2.4823	2.4604	1.5190	1.5143	1.5058	0.8443
US	1.6420			1.0000			0.3558

INTEREST RATES

Country	3 month	1 yr	2 yr	5 yr	10 yr	15 yr
UK	7.50%					
Germany	2.50%	3.00%	3.50%	4.00%	4.50%	5.00%
France	4.50%	5.00%	5.50%	6.00%	6.50%	7.00%
Canada	6.50%	7.00%	7.50%	8.00%	8.50%	9.00%
Japan	5.50%	6.00%	6.50%	7.00%	7.50%	8.00%
Italy	5.00%	5.50%	6.00%	6.50%	7.00%	7.50%
Spain	5.00%	5.50%	6.00%	6.50%	7.00%	7.50%
Sweden	3.75%	4.25%	4.75%	5.25%	5.75%	6.25%
Switzerland	3.00%	3.50%	4.00%	4.50%	5.00%	5.50%

BOND YIELDS

Country	3 month	1 yr	2 yr	5 yr	10 yr	15 yr
Australia	4.95	5.08	5.21	5.34	5.47	5.60
Belgium	3.60	3.83	4.01	4.23	4.45	4.67
Canada	6.70	7.04	7.38	7.72	8.06	8.40
ECU	4.13	4.14	4.15	4.16	4.17	4.18
France	4.00	4.26	4.52	4.78	5.04	5.30
Germany	3.53	3.82	4.01	4.24	4.47	4.70
Italy	4.62	4.25	4.21	4.16	4.12	4.08
Japan	0.42	0.40	0.37	0.32	0.27	0.22
Netherlands	3.53	3.81	4.09	4.37	4.65	4.93
Spain	4.19	4.03	4.01	4.14	4.27	4.40
Sweden	4.15	4.00	4.17	4.01	4.26	4.51
Switzerland	2.22	2.44	2.68	2.94	3.21	3.48
UK	7.35	7.00	6.78	6.56	6.34	6.12
US	4.83	5.02	5.05	5.01	5.04	5.06

MONEY MARKET RATES

Overnight	1 week	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
Overnight	7.40	7.25	7.50	7.35	
1 week		7.40	7.25	7.50	7.35
1 month			7.40	7.25	7.50
3 months				7.40	7.25
6 months					7.40
1 year					

LIFFE FINANCIAL FUTURES

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est floor volume	Open interest
Long Call	Sep-98	108.95	108.31	108.75	43678.00
5 Yr Call	Sep-98	108.16			100
German Bund	Sep-98	108.65	108.15	108.54	9020.00
Italian Bond	Sep-98	120.10	121.50	120.38	33198.00
Japan Govt Bond	Sep-98	131.70	131.68	131.70	2931.00
3 Mth Sterling	Sep-98	92.20	92.22	92.19	11470.00
Dec-98	Sep-98	92.25	92.28	92.24	10868.00
Aug-99	Sep-98	96.32	96.34	96.33	810.00
Sep-99	Sep-98	96.38	96.41	96.38	40652.00
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	95.56	95.61	95.53	36338.00
Dec-98	Sep-98	95.57	95.69	95.56	36338.00
3 Mth Euroyen	Sep-98	99.24			16392.00
3 Mth Euroswiss	Sep-98	97.79	97.82	97.75	13400.00
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	97.82	97.82	97.56	6630.00
Aug-99	Sep-98	95.88			0.00
Sep-99	Sep-98	95.88			0.00
3 Mth Euro	Sep-98	95.88			15714.00
TSF 100	Sep-98	5995.00	6026.00	5985.00	10625.00
					16194.00

LIFFE FTSE 100 INDEX OPTION

Series	Call	Put	Call	Put	Call	Put
10000	330	3	29	360	60	456
10500	272	3	26	343	67	418
11000	207	5	25	306	87	379
11500	172	10	24	267	134	400

ENERGY AT 5:30PM

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est floor volume	Open interest
Brent Crude (\$/barrel)	Sep-98	110.00	112.14	109.94	5400
WTI Crude (\$/barrel)	Sep-98	110.00	112.14	109.94	5400
Gas Oil (\$/tonne)	Sep-98	110.00	112.14	109.94	5400
WTI Crude (\$/barrel)	Sep-98	110.00	112.14	109.94	5400
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SPORT

The Open: Talented young brigade are ready to give the experienced pros a run for their money at Royal Birkdale

Kuchar smiling his way to the top

BY ANDY FARRELL
at Royal Birkdale

PETER KUCHAR is unrepentant. "We want to adhere to our traditions," he said at Loch Lomond. "But we believe in the theory that if you smile the world smiles with you."

Peter is the father of Matt Kuchar, a young man with a dazzling smile and golf game to match. Matt has smiled his way into the consciousness of the American public by finishing 21st at the US Masters and 14th at the US Open.

"Kooch, Kooch, Kooch," rang out from the gallery on several greens at the Olympic Club in San Francisco last month. On the last day, when Kuchar turned 20, there were also renditions of "Happy Birthday". Matt Kuchar smiling is not the problem. That comes when Peter Kuchar jumps up and down pumping his fist every time his son hits a good shot or holes a putt, both of which happen quite often.

The father-turned-caddy, usually an insurance salesman, was described as "high-fiving like a refugee from the NBA" but dismissed any suggestion of impropriety. "The last time I looked, this wasn't a funeral," he asserted. Kuchar was paired with Ernie Els, the defending US Open champion, and Justin Leonard, the Open champion, for the first two rounds at Olympic and beat them by six and seven strokes respectively.

"Matt impressed me with the way he kept his composure," Els said. "His father gets a bit excited but Matt's pretty calm. His dad is from the other side of the coin. Matt must get it from his mother's side."

As for Leonard, when asked about Kuchar's father he merely said: "Next question." A few minutes later he added: "It does me no good to answer that question. Do you understand?"

Kuchar, from a wealthy suburb of Orlando, Florida, was virtually unknown until he won the US Amateur Championship last August. In the final he beat Joel Kriebel, one of the leading members of the US team at the Walker Cup played two weeks earlier, a tournament for which Kuchar was never considered. Even last week there were suggestions that Kuchar Sr had been distracting competitors by talking too loud.

"Having my dad as my caddy has been great for me," Kuchar said. "I don't know if it would work for other guys. He keeps me calm and it's fun to see him get excited. He won't change. I think most people get a kick out of it. Too bad it was made into a big deal. It doesn't bother me at all."

Before his father became the story, the shock news was that a golfer could play superb golf - only six other pros finished as high in the first two majors of the year to guarantee return trips next year - and still enjoy it at the same time. "As



Spain's teenage wonder Sergio Garcia tees off at Royal Birkdale's 12th during a practice round watched by his fellow countrymen Santiago Luna and Seve Ballesteros. Inset: Matt Kuchar, who intends to add to his growing reputation with a good performance this side of the Atlantic

pros, we tend to forget it's fun out here," Davis Love said.

"It's hard not to have fun playing on beautiful golf courses with thousands of people cheering you on," Kuchar said. Soon he could be paid to enjoy the experience. His finishes in the first two majors of the year would have brought him around \$90,000 (£55,000) as a pro. Then there are the expected endorsement deals, not quite in the Tiger Woods class but still worth between £2m and £10m.

During the Masters Kuchar was sure he would complete the last two years of his Business Management

degree at Georgia Tech. Recently, he has had second thoughts. "Everyone wants to talk to me about turning pro," he said. "I have tossed and turned a bunch over it and right now I'm smack in the middle. It's weighing on me pretty heavily."

Both Tom Lehman and Els have told Kuchar that he is ready. On "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno", one of the other guests was a 96-year-old woman who had just graduated from high school. "I can get my degree any time. Just look at her," Kuchar said.

"At Georgia Tech, my game has improved so much over the last two

years and gone to another level. So I don't know if another year there or a year on tour would be better for me."

Sergio Garcia does not have such problems. A Miami businessman helps him to travel the world and since winning the British Amateur at Muirfield last month he has been playing solely in professional events, either on the Nike tour in America, where his best finish is third, or on the European tour, where he has made the cut both in Ireland and at Loch Lomond. Already this year he has won four amateur events in Spain and one in America, while late

last year he earned the title of Catalan PGA champion. The 18-year-old from Castellon, who was a club champion at the age of 12 and is known as "El Nino", will turn professional after competing in next year's Masters. "Sergio is Spain's next champion," Seve Ballesteros said.

Immediately after his Amateur win Garcia's father, Victor, a club professional who caddied for him at Muirfield, said an amateur could win the Open. Since Bobby Jones was the last amateur to do so in 1930 that might be asking a bit much, but two years ago at Lytham Lehman

handed Garcia the Open trophy and told him to practice holding it aloft. "Some day you will win it," the American said.

Last week Lehman played a practice round at Loch Lomond with Kuchar, Garcia and Justin Rose, the 17-year-old Walker Cup player who qualified for the Open yesterday and might turn pro as early as next week. "They have a lot more talent, composure and poise than I ever did at that age," he said. "Matt and Justin seem to be similar players. Both have a feel-type game. Sergio is more powerful. He hits it hard and kills it."



Woo Nam wins the no-ball prize

BY TIM GLOVER
at Hillsdale

IT WOULD be harsh but fair to conclude that a number of players engaged in final qualifying for the Open Championship did not have the balls to survive what is, at the best of times, a traumatic experience.

In the case of Young Woo Nam this is, unfortunately, literally true. By the time the Korean golfer came to the 18th hole at the West Lancashire links he had run out of balls. Young had aged considerably.

Woo Nam (an S short of a celebrated Welsh professional) shot 86, 14 over par in the first round and when he braved the 30 mph winds yesterday he did so with only four balls in his golf bag. Given the extremely testing conditions, this was the height of optimism. When he arrived at the last hole, Woo Nam might have thought he had been playing a form of Russian roulette - three balls had been blown to oblivion and he was down to one. It was, of course, imperative for Woo Nam to keep his last ball in play but, alas, he lost that as well.

When he sought the sanctuary of the clubhouse he was not sure of his predicament. Officials informed him that as he hadn't finished the 18th he was obliged to mark his card "no return".

Woo Nam was 11 over par for the round, 25 over in total and his only

consolation was that even if he had had sufficient balls he would not have qualified for the Open, which begins at Royal Birkdale on Thursday.

Woo Nam's performance was quite respectable compared to that of the Argentinian Jose Coceres. Coceres, who won the Catalan Open in 1994, shot 105 at Hesketh after which he said: "No comment."

Coceres, one of 11 children, had 74 in the first round and yesterday he began quite promisingly with 4, 4, 4, 4. Then he began to score like a Southport holidaymaker who had discovered the game for the first time. He had a quintuple bogey nine at the sixth, a quadruple bogey nine at the seventh and quadruple bogey eight at the 10th. He went out in 52 and came home in 53.

No such problems for young Justin Rose, an amateur who plays at North Hants, had a double-bogey seven at the second where he drove out of bounds but his performance over the back nine, on which he managed to produce four birdies, was remarkable.

Rose, who had a 74 in the first round, played in final qualifying for



Gary Nicklaus plays out of a bunker yesterday David Ashdown

the Open at St Andrews in 1995 when he was just 14 but missed it by several shots. "Amateur golf is fantastic," Rose said. "But the professional game is where I want to be."

The Walker Cup player is not short of invitations to professional tournaments and, should he have a good Open here this week, it is possible that he will relinquish his amateur status in time to play in the Dutch Open next week.

The tees at West Lancashire were moved forward at three holes but that did not stop the scores averaging

80-plus. Out of the field of 156 for the 127th Open, 102 are exempt and they should thank these lucky stars.

David Howell was one of the privileged majority by virtue of making a 5ft putt at the last in the Standard Life World Invitational at Loch Lomond last Saturday. Had he not finished joint second there, he would have been among the qualifiers at the weather-beaten West Lancashire course. "If you thought I was happy on Saturday, you can imagine how I feel now," Howell said. Ecstatic was the word he was looking for.

Golden Bear is happy with his senior status

THE RADAR that has brought Jack Nicklaus to 36 consecutive Opens once again took him inside British airspace yesterday. The Golden Bear usually arrives at this time of the year to fear golf courses apart.

Yesterday, though, he was merely here to open one he designed. When the 127th Open starts on Thursday it will do so without perhaps the greatest golfer of them all. When businessmen retire they usually spend more time on the golf course. Nicklaus, at 58, is doing the journey in reverse and will attend company meetings at the end of the week. A streak of 146 consecutive Majors is at an end.

It might be that we will see the great man in activity just once more in these Islands. Carnoustie next year is already looking doubtful. "I might play there but I probably won't," he said.

St Andrews in 2000 is, however, already in the Nicklaus diary. Indeed, he hopes to play in all four Majors in the new millennium. But then that may be it. Nicklaus despises the thought of playing on memories and is likely to confine himself to the Seniors tour in which he is still a consistent winner. "I've always prided myself on being ready and prepared, but I can't play like Jack Nicklaus when he was 35 any more," he said.

"I'll be 60 in one and a half years so to say I'll be around for a long time to come is silly. It's also silly for me to try to compete with the kids at the age of 60."

Nicklaus is hardly gone as a

Jack Nicklaus has flown into Britain on Open week but he is not staying for another Major. By Richard Edmondson

player. He was eighth at the Masters and has made the cut in 10 of the last 12 Majors. That, it seems, is not enough and Jack does not want to be an impostor. "I've tried to be a ceremonial golfer and I just can't do it," he has said.

Nicklaus has not missed a Major for 37 years. When he started, four boys just down the road from Birkdale who called themselves The Beatles hadn't enjoyed their first hit. It was at Augusta in April that he decided to end his sequence. "I made my mind up a while back," he said. "At the Masters I thought that would be the end of my streak. Part of that was down to the scheduling of two Senior Majors either side of the Open. I was happy and relieved."

Thus his next outing will not be on the Lancashire Riviera but in the US Senior Open at the Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles next week.

In order to keep the wolf from his portcullis Nicklaus has had a secondary career since 1966, the year he started taking an interest in course design. He has now completed 147 projects and has 36 on the go. Over the last decade he has averaged almost 10 a year. Nicklaus is a man who plays with three pennies in his pocket and considerably more in his bank accounts.

Yesterday he arrived by private jet to open his new baby at Carden Park,

a 7,010 yard, par-72 course carved out of Cheshire arable land between Chester and Whitechurch. Nicklaus's fourth course in Great Britain has been built at a cost of \$5m (£2.5m). The man himself has probably been on a good hourly rate as he has visited the site just twice.

Nicklaus will, at least, have made more welcome than earlier visitors. The first hall on the estate built in 1643 was ransacked by Cromwellian troops. They would have admired the ruthlessness Nicklaus has displayed since his first Major, the 1962 US Open.

Jack may not be able to succeed this week but he believes Lee Westwood might. "I've only played with him once and that was at the Masters last year," he said.

"I hadn't heard much about him before then but I followed his progress and he has continued to grow and get better. He will be one of your favourites this week. He's got the opportunity to be an heir apparent."

As he walked away Jack Nicklaus was limping. He appeared tired and suddenly he didn't look 5ft 11in any more. It seemed that bare patches were beginning to appear in the fur of the Golden Bear. There will, however, be plenty of golfers happy to see the vapour trail from his Gulfstream jet as he sets off back to Florida.

Players expect strong winds

GOLF

BY ANDY FARRELL
at Royal Birkdale

IT MAY not be much of a consolation for those practising for the 127th Open but at least there are not lots of smug locals claiming the 25mph winds battering Southport yesterday were only a "wee zephyr" blowing. They will get enough of that at Carnoustie next year.

Tom Lehman, the 1996 champion, has the right idea. "How do you prepare for the British Open? For starters, you need the turtle neck, two cashmere sweaters, the rain gear and to practice hitting balls three inches off the ground," the American said.

He was joking, but only just. "That is a little tongue in cheek, obviously, but you should expect weather like this. If you don't, you can get beaten up." The forecast is for no let up during the week and Lehman would not have it any other way. "I love it here, everything down to the little snack bars with those bacon rolls." His first sight of Birkdale came late on Sunday evening, while the rest of the planet was watching the World Cup final.

Lehman took out just a driver, a five-iron, a putter and six balls. He got no further than the ninth before he had lost the lot and had to walk in. "When the wind is blowing this hard you have to hit the ball solidly. The best ball-strikers will come to the top. Half the field will not be a factor because they are not hitting the ball well, or they are not mentally prepared to play. You just hope you are not one of the guys who are written off from the beginning."

While most are trying to get a lower ball flight in practice, Lehman takes the opposite tack. "I try to hit the ball high in practice," he said. "Then you make sure you get behind the ball and can always adjust to hitting it lower on the course. The wind can ruin your balance, but that way you stay in balance."

Should conditions stay the same, Lee Janzen predicted the winner would be over par for the week. Last month the American won the US Open with a level par score and hopes the experience of his English caddy, Dave Musgrove, in his sixth Birkdale Open, will be a factor. "But it will only help if I play well and get into contention on Sunday," Janzen said.

Janzen made only two birdies in his first two practice rounds, losing five balls in the first of them, while Ernie Els was four over par yesterday. The South African, who spent last week helicoptering around Ireland playing Portrush, Royal County Down, Portmarnock, Ballyunion and Royal Dublin, admitted he may take up to a month off after the Open to rest, and hopefully cure, his back. "It is just this bloody spasm which doesn't want to go away," he said.

Nick Faldo will attempt to hit full shots for the first time since suffering an elbow injury last week. Yesterday, he walked the course, his caddy Fanny Sunesson, carrying a full bag, but only chipped and putted around the greens.

Pak equals record low

PAK SE-RI, the 20-year-old South Korean, won her second title in seven days on Sunday when she matched the LPGA record for lowest score with a 23-under-par 261. That gave her a nine-shot victory at the Jamie Farr Classic.

Last Monday, Pak outlasted the amateur Jenny Chuasiriporn in a record 20-hole play-off to win the US Women's Open, her second career win - and second major championship - in eight weeks.

"This is the best week for me," Pak said. After shooting par on Thursday, Pak established an LPGA record with a 61 on Friday that included 10 birdies. She collected 10 more in her 63 on Saturday and capped her superb week with a closing round 66 on Sunday.

Pak's score matched the 23-under posted by Nancy Lopez in 1985 and tied by Beth Daniel in 1994. Wendy Ward in 1997 and Lisa Walters at last month's Oldsmobile Classic. All four of those players shot 265 on par-72 courses.

British Grand Prix: Home-based drivers fail to make an impact amid backbiting and recriminations



David Coulthard tramps back to the pits after spinning out of the British Grand Prix on Sunday

Allsport

Coulthard's place under scrutiny

BY DERICK ALLSOP

WHILE MCLAREN await the outcome of their appeal over Michael Schumacher's controversial first victory in the British Grand Prix, they will doubtless be engaged in some deliberation of their own concerning the position of David Coulthard.

The Scotsman's demise in torrential rain at Silverstone on Sunday was the latest, and possibly final, setback to his World Championship hopes. He now trails his team-mate, Mika Hakkinen, by 26 points, and Ferrari's Schumacher by 24.

Coulthard complained of being fitted with the wrong tyres, of conflicting weather forecasts, and generally fuelled any suspicions of preferential treatment towards Hakkinen. The mood and innuendoes were much the same after he qualified fourth, more than a second slower than Hakkinen, on Saturday.

Such rumblings of discontent will not have been well received within McLaren-Mercedes, whose paternal figures have repeatedly pledged fair and equal measures of care, attention and equipment for their drivers.

Coulthard has expressed his desire to continue with McLaren next season and Ron Dennis, the team principle, has said he expects to have an unchanged line-up. Dennis added, however, that circumstances could change and that he would not shirk from "difficult decisions".

He may now be inclined to consider more carefully the available options for next year, if only, at this stage, to give Coulthard a job and remind him he happens to have the best car.

The reality is that Hakkinen has usually been quicker than Coulthard, who has a tendency to perform below his best when he feels less than totally comfortable with his machinery. Hakkinen, too, made errors on Sunday but recovered to

complete the course and retain the lead in the championship.

It seems doubtful FIA, the governing body, will increase the Finn's advantage when they hear McLaren's appeal over Schumacher's 10-second penalty that never was. Characteristic Formula One confusion may have infuriated McLaren but the authorities will have savoured the publicity.

The public jousting between Damon Hill and Jordan as they engage in contract negotiations behind the scenes might now be regretted by the former champion. His sorry exit on Sunday, spinning out on the 15th lap, can only have undermined his bargaining position.

He has called for more competitive equipment, yet his team mate, Ralf Schumacher, carved his way from the back row of the grid to finish sixth, thereby delivering the team's first point of the season.

Hill has an option to stay at Jordan, who say they want him, but it is understood they are reluctant to pay him another £4.5m next year.

The Englishman admitted his spin was "pathetic" and had salt rubbed into the wound by Ferrari's Eddie Irvine, who finished third and then described Hill as "a sad old man" and "a menace".

Yet another Briton, Johnny

Herbert, is still under a dark cloud. He had a major fall-out with his team, Sauber, after resisting instructions to give way to his partner, Jean Alesi. The Frenchman declared: "Next year it's him or me." The near certainty is, it will be Alesi.

Herbert, already involved in discussions with other teams, will be keen to develop serious negotiations. He has been linked with several teams, and sought refuge on Sunday night in the Stewart Ford camp.

Irvine can only have enhanced his prospects of a new contract at Ferrari with a consistent run of results that had lifted him to within a point of Coulthard in the championship.

Ferrari approached the reigning CART champion, Alex Zanardi, but were rebuffed. The Italian is now expected to sign for Williams.

Irvine has covered himself by suggesting he may look elsewhere, but he is unlikely to find a better car-contract package, and has the backing of Schumacher, which could ultimately prove decisive.

Ford, partners of Stewart and suppliers to Tyrrell and Minardi, have removed doubts about their engine builders by buying Cosworth Racing from Audi.

CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

1 M Hakkinen (Fin)	56pts
2 M Schumacher (Ger)	54
3 D Coulthard (GB)	30
4 E Irvine (GB)	29
5 A Wurz (Aut)	17
6 G Fisichella (It)	15
7 J Villeneuve (Can)	11
8 H-H Frenzen (Ger)	8
9 R Barrichello (Br)	4
10 J Alesi (Fr)	3
M Salo (Fin)	3
12 J Herbert (GB)	1
P Diniz (Br)	1
J Magnussen (Den)	1
R Schumacher (Ger)	1

Constructors' standings

1 McLaren-Mercedes 86pts; 2 Ferrari 83; 3 Benetton-Playlife 32; 4 Williams-Mecachrome 19; 5 Stewart-Ford 5; 6 Sauber-Petronas 4; 7 Arrows 4; 8 Jordan-Mugen-Honda 1.
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Remaining races

26 July Austria; 2 August Hockenheim; 16 August Hungaroring; 30 August Spa-Francorchamps; 13 September Monza; 27 September Nürburgring; 1 November Suzuka.
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Jamaican Brinn selected by England

SWIMMING

BY JAMES PARRACK

THE ENGLAND selectors for the Commonwealth Games team took the unprecedented step of including the Jamaican Sion Brinn among the 42 swimmers announced yesterday who will compete in Kuala Lumpur in September.

Brinn won the 100 metres freestyle and was runner-up in the 50 metres at the trials in Sheffield last weekend. If eligible, he would be a medal contender in both events at the Games, and would add significant strength to the 4 x 100 freestyle team to challenge the Australians for gold.

After resigning from Jamaican swimming last October, Brinn has lived and trained with the elite squad at the University of Bath. An application to compete for England was originally turned down by the executive council for the Commonwealth Games in Malaysia, and a final decision, after appeal, is due in the next 10 days.

However, the English Commonwealth Games Council is not optimistic of Brinn's inclusion. He falls short of the minimum 18-month residency requirement. Brinn, 25, has short blond hair and bright blue eyes but a heavy Jamaican accent betrays his Caribbean upbringing. His voice lifted slowly through his response to the appeal. "It's up

to them now, man" he shrugged.

The full aquatic team to Kuala Lumpur comprises 42 swimmers, seven divers and three synchro. Three swimmers who made the qualifying standard at the trials at the weekend have been placed on reserve.

But the issue which needed urgent attention surrounds the

new Adidas Equipment Bodysuit. The revolutionary head-to-toe covering of the bodysuit was worn in competition for the first time in Sheffield. Paul Palmer set two titles and Sue Rolph set three British and one Commonwealth record wearing the suit.

England is sending potentially its most successful Commonwealth team ever to Kuala

Lumpur. Success will be crucial to secure Lottery funding and the performance of the team will inevitably be judged in gold medals.

But it is Speedo who are contracted to supply the swimmers' equipment and the English Commonwealth Games Council and the Amateur Swimming Association are adamant that the swimmers will wear Speedo and nothing else.

Such agreements, however, have been broken in the past. Adrian Moorhouse won Olympic gold in 1988 wearing Speedo when Arena had the contract. It is a matter which needs to be resolved, with the interests of the swimmers placed above all else.

ENGLAND TEAM FOR COMMONWEALTH GAMES
Whithead, 200m breaststroke: Whithead, 100m butterfly: J Hickman, R Greenwood, A Miller, 200m butterfly: Hickman, S Parry, R Askcroft, 200m medley: Hickman, Turner, B Luffery, A 100m freestyle: Brinn, Shuckell, Meadows, 200m freestyle: P Palmer, Meadows, J Salter, 400m freestyle: Palmer, Salter, 1500m freestyle: Wilson, 100m backstroke: A Ruckwood, N Wiley, M Harris, 200m backstroke: Ruckwood, S Mills, 100m breaststroke: D New, R Madden, A

WOMEN: 50m freestyle: S Rolph, K Pickering, 100m freestyle: Rolph, Pickering, 200m freestyle: C Huddart, R Legg, Pickering, 400m freestyle: V Horner, 800m freestyle: S Coiling, 100m backstroke: S Price, H Slater, 200m backstroke: H Don-Duncan, K Sooton, J Deakin, 100m breaststroke: J King, 200m breaststroke: L Hindmarsh, 100m butterfly: C Foot, M Pedder, G Lee, 200m butterfly: Pedder, Lee, 200m medley: Rolph

400m medley: S Nesbitt, 4 x 100m freestyle: Rolph, Pickering, Huddart, Legg, A 200m freestyle: Huddart, Legg, Pickering, L Cooper, 4 x 100m medley: To be selected
DRIVING: Mens T All, M Shipman, L Taylor, Mens S Freeman, J Smith, K Smith, L Ward
SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING: G Adamson, A Carlen, K Hooper.

Clubs agree to shelve Anglo-French plan

RUGBY UNION

BY CHRIS HEWETT

THE WHITEHALL farce surrounding English rugby's Mayfair Agreement reached the end of its run in the heart of the West End yesterday, just in time to prevent Cliff Brittle making political capital from a potentially damaging split among the Premiership clubs. The various owner-investors and chief executives agreed to shelve radical plans for a new Anglo-French competition and abide by the terms of the much-maligned peace deal brokered by the Rugby Football Union in May.

Supporters of Brittle, the ostracised chairman of the RFU management board who will be fighting for his political life at this weekend's annual general meeting in Birmingham, have spent most of the summer claiming that the clubs were preparing to renege on the Mayfair accord. They pointed to

a series of discussions with leading French sides, including Toulouse, aimed at establishing a high-profile cross-Channel tournament - a clear breach of the Mayfair terms - and also alleged that the new domestic season would start in mid-August rather than on 5 September, as agreed.

However, the Premiership "doves" prevailed at yesterday's meeting in London. According to senior figures in the English Rugby Partnership, the top clubs' umbrella organisation, it was now 99 per cent certain that the Allied Dunbar campaign would begin in September and that a definitive fixture list would be issued later this week. They also said that despite French enthusiasm for a new £12m competition, it was far too late to work it into next season's calendar.

It is by no means sure that the English champions, Newcastle, will play their French counterparts, Stade Français, in a pre-season head-to-head

fixture eagerly awaited by supporters of both clubs. Newcastle were none too impressed by the Mayfair deal and have been at the forefront of the move to forge closer links with France, but agreement over dates continues to prove elusive. The developments will be of considerable concern to Cardiff, who remain at loggerheads with the Welsh Rugby Union and are desperate to expand playing links with the English clubs. Along with Swansea, who have similar if more quietly-held ambitions, Cardiff are facing the prospect of another unsatisfying season on the domestic treadmill, interrupted only by a devalued Heineken Cup tournament.

Meanwhile Bill Beaumont, chairman of the RFU's national playing committee, categorically denied reports that he and his colleagues would resign en masse if Brittle was re-elected to his post on Sunday. "I remain committed to my role," said the former England captain.

Bradford dismiss Richards rumours

RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

BRADFORD HAVE categorically denied that they have any plans to sign the disgraced Newcastle Knights forward, Wayne Richards.

The player, who has been suspended for 22 matches for using a banned steroid, has said in Australia that he has agreed a contract with the club.

But the Bradford coach, Matthew Elliott, said yesterday: "It's a load of bull - a complete fabrication."

Richards, who played in last season's victorious Grand Final team, is one of three Knights to test positive this season. Unlike the Australian Test full-back, Robbie O'Davis, he has had his contract cancelled and cannot play anywhere until midway through next season.

Although Bradford have been increasingly anxious to strengthen their side, it is hard to see the attraction of signing

a player who could not turn out for them for almost a year.

The Rugby League's chief executive, Neil Tunncliffe, confirmed that Richards could not be registered to play here until his Australian suspension is served.

"We have a reciprocal agreement with Australia and we would need to be sure that anyone signed in these circumstances had served out his suspension," he said.

Meanwhile, the Bulls' second-rower, Bernard Dwyer, is appealing today against the one-match suspension imposed for punching an opponent during the win at Leeds last week. If he fails in his appeal, Dwyer will be unable to play for Bradford in their match against the London Broncos in Edinburgh on Saturday.

Scotland's other major city, Glasgow, has dropped out of the reckoning for a Super League place next season. The unwillingness of Glasgow City Council to invest in the project has

left the consortium behind the bid without the finance to go ahead.

That leaves Gateshead, Swansea and Cardiff as the applicants for the one or two places in the competition that could be available.

The position could be complicated, however, by an agreement on the conditions that the champions of Division One must meet before they can be promoted. Super League clubs yesterday approved a formula suggested by the Rugby League to govern who can and cannot go up.

Iestyn Harris is the big doubt for Wales' match against England at Widnes on Sunday, after picking up a knock in Leeds' victory over Salford at Gateshead. With a number of other players also struggling, the Oldham forward, Mike Edwards, has been placed on stand-by, putting in doubt his participation in the Trans-Pennine Cup Final against Batley the same day.

Bushnell masters angry Thames

ROWING

BY HUGH MATHESON

THE THAMES, where it flows through the city, put on a brutal face yesterday for the Doggett's Coat and Badge Race which, since 1714, has decided the best apprentice waterman on London's river. The stiff head breeze met the incoming tide flowing past the Tower of London and produced a brutal chop when the five men and one woman started in matched boats from London Bridge to race to Chelsea Pier.

From the start the scullers raced for the City shore to seek some shelter from the sinking conditions; and it was the 14th 12lb David Bushnell who got there first and was able to dominate the course.

Bushnell, great nephew of Bert, who won the 1948 Olympic double sculls, comes from Wargrave on the non-tidal Thames, and might, like the Saunders brother and sister, Lenny and Kate from Lowestoft, have lacked the knowledge to win on this difficult, twisting course. These scullers are the heirs of London's ancient waterborne taxi service and have as much need to know where they are on the water as a black cab on the street.

But David Bushnell and Lenny Saunders held first and second almost throughout, and the one most likely to challenge them, Richard Kelly, destroyed his chances while enhancing his reputation as a waterman, by falling in after snagging his left scull just upstream of Westminster Bridge. In front of the House of Commons he righted the boat, repeated himself to scull away perhaps 10 lengths worse off, and pulled back from fourth to finish third behind Saunders and Bushnell.

Wright finalises move to West Ham

FOOTBALL
BY ALAN NIXON

IAN WRIGHT yesterday brought down the curtain on his high-bury career when he finalised his move across the capital to join West Ham.

Wright said that at least 10 clubs had wanted to sign him, but he told his agent that if he couldn't join the Hammers he would stay at Arsenal. "I wanted to come and play for Harry Redknapp because he is perfect for me. He knows what makes me tick and he is a good motivator. I told my agent that if I couldn't play for West Ham then I would stay at Arsenal."

"I believe West Ham are going somewhere and I want to be part of it. I am excited about playing with John Hartson, Eyal Berkovic, Trevor Sinclair, Frank Lampard, Rio Ferdinand, Steve Lomas - the list just goes on.

"At the moment, Arsenal are at the top and West Ham are some way behind. But I believe West Ham will catch up with them and that Harry is building a squad capable of winning something - and I want to help."

My aim is to score lots of goals and have fun doing it. I am constantly chasing that feeling and I know I can score goals in the Premiership in abundance. West Ham have people who can create chances and I can finish them off.

"The club had a great home record last season and if we can live up to the away form then maybe we can go one better and get into Europe." The two-year deal for 34-year-old Wright, believed to be for a nominal fee of less than £500,000.

Youri Djorkaeff, part of France's victorious World Cup team, has said he would like to leave Internazionale and come to England.

Djorkaeff has been made available by the Serie A side and he could be on his way to the Premiership in a £5m move.

The French international striker, who failed to find the net at France 98, knows his first team place at Inter is under pressure and is happy to follow French team-mates Patrick Vieira, Franck LeBoeuf and Emmanuel Petit to England.

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, is poised to sign left-winger Kevin Kilbane from West Bromwich Albion in a £2m deal.

The Republic of Ireland player is set to move to The Riverside this week as Robson carries on his spending in a concerted attempt to stay in the Premiership.

Robson has been chasing Kilbane all summer and now hopes to push through a deal for the winger who joined West Brom from Preston for £750,000 a year ago. Kilbane will give Boro youth and fresh legs as he joins Gary Pallister and Dean Gordon at the Riverside. Robson is still hoping to secure the

signature of the Manchester United striker Teddy Sheringham, as the Boro chairman, Steve Gibson, has increased his spending power.

Bradford City are refusing to pay for signing Ashley Westwood in a shock challenge to the new transfer rules. The centre-half joined Bradford from Crewe at the end of his contract but the Yorkshire club argue they should not need to come up with a transfer fee.

New Football League rules state Crewe are entitled to compensation as Westwood is under 24 and a tribunal should

settle the valuation. Crewe want at least £500,000 for Westwood who joined them from Manchester United and is one of their top players.

However, Bradford are claiming the League rules are in breach of European Commission law on freedom of movement under the Treaty of Rome.

Ironically, if Westwood had moved to Greek club Panionios, who also wanted him, there would have been no fee due to Crewe.

So, farcically, Westwood would have been forced abroad

to get a free transfer rather than travel 100 miles to Bradford, where he has a price.

Westwood's agent, Paul Stretford, said last night: "Ashley wants to join the club of his choice. Under European law he can find a new employer in that way."

"The Football League are acting outside the recommendations from the European Commission with their rule about fees for players under 24".

Bradford are prepared to pay Crewe for the "training and development" of Westwood, but not a transfer fee.

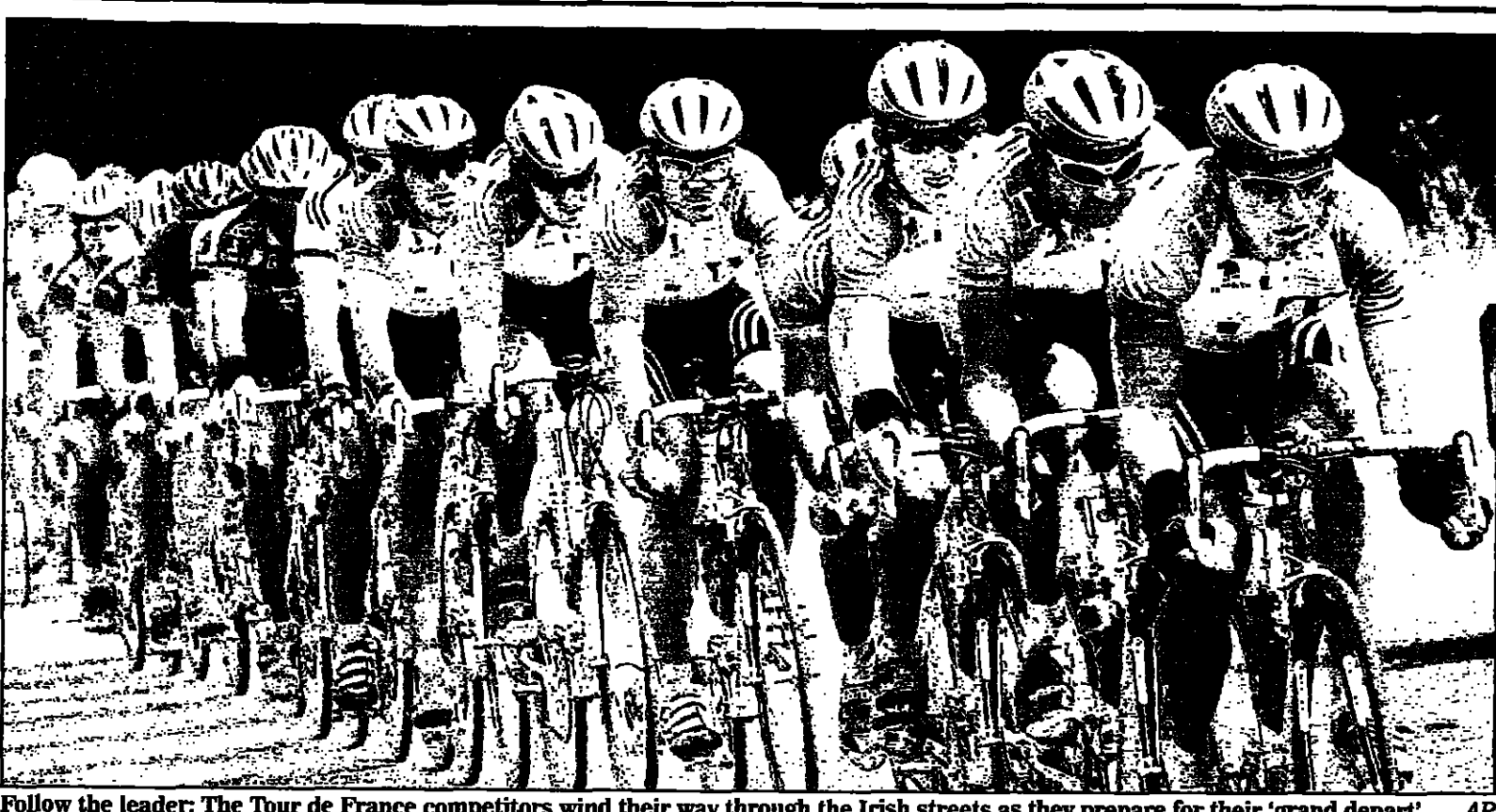
Johnson ready for revenge

ATHLETICS
BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM

THE INTERNATIONAL caravan moves on to Rome tonight, where the world's leading 400 metres runners will contest a race which could push Mark Richardson into record-breaking territory.

Last Thursday, on the tight bends of the Bislett Stadium, the 25-year-old Windsor athlete came within 0.01sec of the British record of 44.36sec held by Iwan Thomas.

Johnson accepts that he is not the athlete who won a stupendous 200-400 metres double two years ago, or even the athlete who retained his world 400m title in Athens last year. "In 1996 I was healthy, now I'm not," Johnson said yesterday. "I've had some injuries for the last three-to-four months - a sore hamstring, a sore Achilles. I'm not injured any more, but because of the injuries I have not been able to train as I wanted. Some injuries take months to heal. You can talk to 10 different people about it and you will get 10 different answers."



Follow the leader: The Tour de France competitors wind their way through the Irish streets as they prepare for their 'grand depart' AP

Tour exits Ireland in style

BY ALAN MURDOCH
in Dublin

THE TOUR'S colossus of a travelling circus of sportsmen, mechanics, advertising and merchandising staff was hard to believe at first. Local media said nothing like it had been in Dublin since 1979's Pappal visit, though the Popemobile was less prone to crashes than this year's leaders.

By last night the three days of the Tour de France "grand depart" in Ireland had proved a huge crowd-puller. Its arrival was in homage to past Irish stars Sean Kelly, four times top points winner, Stephen Roche the 1987 winner, and Shay Elliott the late tragic stalwart of the late Fifties and early Sixties.

Irish weather was up to expectations, delivering all four seasons in a single afternoon. Up in the wind-blown Wicklow Gap, farmers on garda advice gave crowd control new meaning by transplanting flocks of sheep around the mountains, reducing the risk of gears clogged with wool.

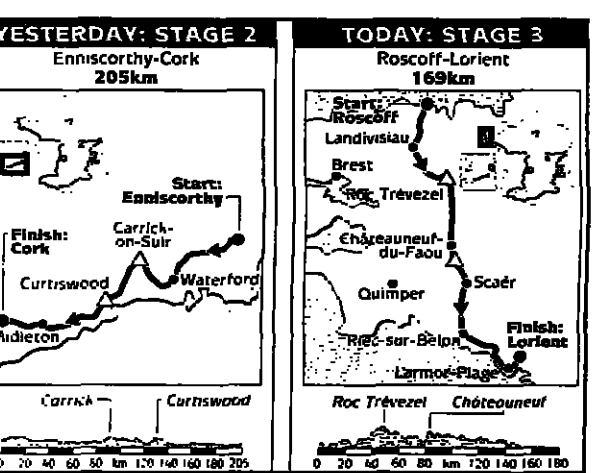
For those on two legs the roadside became a mass picnic. With 60,000 Spanish and Italian language students in the capital there was strong Continental support.

Dublin women, not previously known for racing fanaticism, were learning fast but for all the wrong reasons. One female official said it was "three days of cute little French bums haring around the country."

The Irish lobbied for the Tour eyeing an estimated tourism windfall of £30m in coming years. Country towns seized the unique chance to be televised globally for a few blurred micro-seconds. They funded facilities and special events from hiring exhibitions to open-air concerts, fireworks displays and a Tour de Food in southern restaurants.

Yesterday's Enniscorthy-Dungarvan-Cork route went via Kelly's birthplace, Carrick-on-Suir in Waterford, where gardai, infused with the party mood joined the crowd's Mexican wave. Kelly himself received a huge ovation.

At the finish normally devout Cork women appeared in can-can outfits. There was a re-created French peasants' revolt with a guillotine real enough to cause discomfort among Cork's wealthy 'merchant princes'. A giant screen shows crowds the approaching peloton's progress. Irish television's helicopter showed a sportsground where groundsmen had mowed "Veve Le Tour" into the grass in a festive if wobbly attempt at the visitors' language.



The idea of bringing the race to Ireland grew after Dubliner Roche's victory 11 years ago. The idea eventually took root amid the Paris celebrations as Jacques Chirac, then Paris mayor, ordered a second circuit by the open car carrying him and Mr Haughey after hearing groups of excited Irish exiles chanting "Charlie! Charlie!"

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

AXA League				Tetley Bitter			
Surrey v Leicestershire				Tim Rice's XI			
FOSTER'S OVAL: Surrey need 106 more runs to win				SCARBOROUGH: Surrey			
Leicestershire won 100-100				Tim Rice's XI won 100-100			
LEICESTERSHIRE				TIM RICE'S XI			
	Runs	5s	4s	Bs	Mn		
P V Simmons run out	114	1	1	91	100		
J J Wells	0	0	0	3	1		
B F Smith	67	0	5	108	115		
D L Maddy	0	0	0	2	3		
P A Nixon	0	0	3	11	17		
M D Akon	1	0	0	2	2		
A Hobb	0	0	0	6	12		
J Sutcliffe	0	0	0	4	4		
D Williamson	0	0	0	1	1		
T J Mason	0	0	0	1	1		
Extras (11 wickets)	21			0	0		
Total (for 9, 38 overs)	252						
Rate 1-11, 2-20, 3-23, 4-27, 5-32, 6-38, 7-50, 8-52, 9-52, 10-52, 11-52							
Surrey				SCARBOROUGH: Surrey			
I J Ward	0	0	11	11	11		
A D Brown	0	0	22	22	22		
D J Ratcliffe	0	0	13	13	13		
A J Stewart	0	0	12	12	12		
G C Hollister	0	0	20	20	20		
A J Hollister	0	0	21	21	21		
N Shah	0	0	12	12	12		
D K Salisbury	0	0	7	7	7		
A J Tudor	0	0	9	9	9		
Sajjan Mhatre	0	0	2	2	2		
J E Benjamin	0	0	2	2	2		
Extras (10 wickets)	19						
Total (for 9, 38 overs)	212						
Rate 1-12, 2-11, 3-11, 4-17, 5-16, 6-18, 7-19, 8-19, 9-20, 10-19, 11-19							
BOWLING: J J Wells 8-0-37-1, M T Brown 7-0-46-3, D K Salisbury 6-1-37-0, J J Ward 1-0-19-0				BOWLING: C E W Shepherd 10-0-51-1, I D K 1-0-37-0, Sajjan Mhatre 5-0-31-0, A J Hollister 7-0-49-4, I D K 1-0-37-0, J J Ward 1-0-19-0			
Umpires: T E Jessy and J F Steele				Umpires: J H Hampshire			

Tetley Bitter Festival Trophy

Tim Rice's XI				
Scarborough: Yorkshire won on a higher run rate				
	Runs	6s	4s	Mins
P A Wallace	21	1	3	21
G W Flower	14	0	0	14
M B Lloyd	40	0	6	35
R J Bailey	86	3	4	103
J C Adams	32	0	3	46
I A Flower	45	0	3	50
P A Rose	0	0	0	1
Extras	18			
Total (for 5, 44.2 overs)	242			
Rate 1-15, 2-28, 3-40, 4-35, 5-28, 6-242				
Surrey				
D L Maddy	11			
A D Brown	22			
D J Ratcliffe	13			
A J Stewart	12			
G C Hollister	20			
A J Hollister	21			
N Shah	12			
D K Salisbury	7			
A J Tudor	9			
Sajjan Mhatre	2			
J E Benjamin	2			
Extras	19			
Total (for 9, 38 overs)	212			
Rate 1-12, 2-11, 3-11, 4-17, 5-16, 6-18, 7-19, 8-19, 9-20, 10-19, 11-19				
Bowling: J J Wells 8-0-37-1, M T Brown 7-0-46-3, D K Salisbury 6-1-37-0, J J Ward 1-0-19-0				
Umpires: T E Jessy and J F Steele				

AUSTRALIAN RULES

APL (Sun): Victoria 22-16 (148) The All Stars 14-11 (99), South Australia 22-11 (143) vs Western Australia 16-11 (107)			
BASEBALL			
AMERICAN LEAGUE: Minnesota 11 Cleveland 6, Toronto 7 Detroit 2 Baltimore 11 Boston 7, New York Yankees 9 Tampa Bay 2, Kansas City 4 Chicago White Sox 3			
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Philadelphia 10 Pittsburgh 4, New York Mets 5 Montreal 2, Cincinnati 3, St Louis 2, Houston 6 Houston 4, Florida 5 Atlanta 3, Colorado 5 San Francisco 3, San Diego 6 Los Angeles 3, Cincinnati 3, Arizona 3			
BASKETBALL			
Milton Keynes Lions, of the Budweiser League, have appointed Andy Alleyne, the former London Towers assistant, as their new coach			
Sheffield Sharks have re-signed Todd Cauthorn, the All-Star forward			
BOWLS			
GREENALLS WATERLOO (Blackpool) Second round: C Baudouin (Heskinen) vs M Grogan (Heskinen), 1-11; G Grogan (Heskinen) vs C Baudouin (Heskinen), 1-11; M Grogan (Heskinen) vs C Baudouin (Heskinen), 1-11; C Baudouin (Heskinen) vs M Grogan (Heskinen), 1-11			
CROQUET			
BRITISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS (The Harrington Club, London) (Second round)			
4.30: 1. RUNS IN THE FAMILY (H. Harrison) 7-2, 2. Fearless 11-2, 3. Sylvan 10-1, 4. B. B. 10-1, 5. 10-1, 6. 10-1, 7. 10-1, 8. 10-1, 9. 10-1, 10. 10-1, 11. 10-1, 12. 10-1, 13. 10-1, 14. 10-1, 15. 10-1, 16. 10-1, 17. 10-1, 18. 10-1, 19. 10-1, 20. 10-1, 21. 10-1, 22. 10-1, 23. 10-1, 24. 10-1, 25. 10-1, 26. 10-1, 27. 10-1, 28. 10-1, 29. 10-1, 30. 10-1, 31. 10-1, 32. 10-1, 33. 10-1, 34. 10-1, 35. 10-1, 36. 10-1, 37. 10-1, 38. 10-1, 39. 10-1, 40. 10-1, 41. 10-1, 42. 10-1, 43. 10-1, 44. 10-1, 45. 10-1, 46. 10-1, 47. 10-1, 48. 10-1, 49. 10-1, 50. 10-1, 51. 10-1, 52. 10-1, 53. 10-1, 54. 10-1, 55. 10-1, 56. 10-1, 57. 10-1, 58. 10-1, 59. 10-1, 60. 10-1, 61. 10-1, 62. 10-1, 63. 10-1, 64. 10-1, 65. 10-1, 66. 10-1, 67. 10-1, 68. 10-1, 69. 10-1, 70. 10-1, 71. 10-1, 72. 10-1, 73. 10-1, 74. 10-1, 75. 10-1, 76. 10-1, 77. 10-1, 78. 10-1, 79. 10-1, 80. 10-1, 81. 10-1, 82. 10-1, 83. 10-1, 84. 10-1, 85. 10-1, 86. 10-1, 87. 10-1, 88. 10-1, 89. 10-1, 90. 10-1, 91. 10-1, 92. 10-1, 93. 10-1, 94. 10-1, 95. 10-1, 96. 10-1, 97. 10-1, 98. 10-1, 99. 10-1, 100. 10-1			

SPORTING DIGEST

PGA TOUR CLASSIC (Coral Valley, Florida) Leading final scores (US dollars unless stated): 268 S Jones 64 65 68 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589 590 591 592 593 594 595 596 597 598 599 600 601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 680 681 682 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 696 697 698 699 700 701 702 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 770 771 772 773 774 775 776 777 778 779 780 781 782 783 784 785 786 787 788 789 790 791 792 793 794 795 796 797 798 799 800 801 802 803 804 805 806 807 808 809 810 811 812 813 814 815 816 817 818 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 828 829 830 831 832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 870 871 872 873 874 875 876 877 878 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897 898 899 900 901 902 903 904 905 906 907 908 909 910 911 912 913 914 915 916 917 918 919 920 921 922 923 924 925 926 927 928 929 930 931 932 933 934 935 936 937 938 939 940 941 942 943 944 945 946 947 948 949 950 951 952 953 954 955 956 957 958 959 960 961 962 963 964 965 966 967 968 969 970 971 972 973 974 975 976 977 978 979 980 981 982 983 984 985 986 987 988 989 990 991 992 993 994 995 996 997 998 999 1000 1001 1002 1003 1004 1005 1006 1007 1008 1009 1010 1011 1012 1013 1014 1015 1016 1017 1018 1019 1020 1021 1022 1023 1024 1025 1026 1027 1028 1029 1030 1031 1032 1033 1034 1035 1036 1037 1038 1039 1040 1041 1042 1043 1044 1045 1046 1047 1048 1049 1050 1051 1052 1053 1054 1055 1056 1057 1058 1059 1060 1061 1062 1063 1064 1065 1066 1067 1068 1069 1070 1071 1072 1073 1074 1075 1076 1077 1078 1079 1080 1081 1082 1083 1084 1085 1086 1087 1088 1089 1090 1091 1092 1093 1094 1095 1096 1097 1098 1099 1100 1101 1102 1103 1104 1105 1106 1107 1108 1109 1110 1111 1112 1113 1114 1115 1116 1117 1118 1119 1120 1121 1122 1123 1124 1125 1126 1127 1128 1129 1130 1131 1132 1133 1134 1135 1136 1137 1138 1139 1140 1141 1142 1143 1144 1145 1146 1147 1148 1149 1150 1151 1152 1153 1154 1
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Final verdict: France is a winner both on and off the field as a well-run tournament inspires thrilling memories

France 98 vintage ranks with best

TO SOME observers this World Cup was as much a disappointment as Brazil were to their fans on Sunday. Well, it may not have touched the heights of Mexico 70 but none of 14 other World Cups, before or since, did so either. To expect a repeat is flying in the face of developments in the game and society.

This World Cup had its dark moments: in particular the family of Daniel Nivel, the gendarme attacked by German hooligans, will find it hard to regard football with equanimity again. Only good fortune prevented similar horrors being perpetrated in Marseilles in England's name.

In the game itself Slaven Bilic was the most notable offender in a competition sullied by cheats: countries such as Belgium, Austria, Norway, Bulgaria and Italy contributed little; the African and Asian nations were generally disappointing; referees, while spotting crimes, were inconsistent in applying punishment; and the ticket fiasco never went away.

But was it so much worse than what has gone before? The World Cups of 1938, 1954 and 1962 were disfigured by brutal violence on the pitch; Pele was kicked out of 1966; there was hooliganism in 1962 and 1990; the Hand of God in 1986; alleged corruption in 1978; and negative play in 1990. Even the previous World Cup, generally regarded as a success, featured wayward elbows, poor refereeing, a dull final and ignorant spectators.

In assessing the last five weeks we have to maintain a sense of perspective. Even 1970 would have struggled to live up to the now overwhelming hype generated by football's incredible popularity.

With almost every significant player performing in the widely televised leagues of Italy, Spain and France we are not likely to see or learn anything new. Nor, with the pace of the game unrelenting, can we expect to see players strolling about the midfield spraying passes like a grid-iron quarterback.

That sort of space is no longer available. Watch the old tapes, even those of 1970, and there are players walking. Now everybody is an athlete. Kevin Keegan used to wear down his marker with running; now man-marking is out of vogue and there is always another substitute. And while the hatchet men may be legislated out of business their former prey are now cut down by the schedules set by television moguls. It is no coincidence that the tournament's top scorer, Croatia's Davor Suker, arrived fresh after spending most of the season resting on the Real Madrid bench.

We must be grateful for what we have: a game shorn of its butchers, presented with greater depth and detail than ever before, with a truly international flavour. There were very few dull matches and several thrillers, especially involving England, Argentina, the Netherlands, Brazil, Denmark, Nigeria and France.

France, the place, has been as much a winner as France, the team. An impressive infrastructure, showing the value of government investment, has ferried fans, media and players across a large country with barely a hitch. The people have been far more welcoming than reputation would suggest and the food, wine and scenery lived up to all expectation.

While some visitors abused this



GLENN
MOORE

hospitality the majority added their own splash of colour. The Brazilians, Jamaicans, Scots, Japanese and Nigerians were taken to French hearts. Within the grounds, for all the problems they caused outside, there was no one to match the English, whose support was massive and passionate. The morning after the Toulouse match Guy Roux, the legendary and usually imperturbable coach of Auxerre, spoke in awe-struck terms of *les Anglais*. "Tout le monde est en train de chanter, tout le monde est en train de chanter, tout le monde est en train de chanter."

England's players eventually lived up to their support and were unfortunate to go out. "They were extremely unlucky not to go further," said Andy Roxburgh, the former Scotland manager and a member of FIFA's technical committee here. "They are a really good team and, with a lot of young players, one for the future."

England were not notably worse than anyone and, with the confidence of progressing, could have been better than all. At this level there is very little to choose between the top sides and, had England gained a draw with Romania and so entered into the easier half of the knock-out programme, they should have made the last four at least.

Thus England's failure to progress was as much due to the errors of Glenn Hoddle - whose selection for that match was overly defensive - as any of his players. The foolishness of David Beckham, the profligacy of Paul Scholes, the loss of form of Alan Shearer and David Seaman, the poor penalties of Paul Ince and David Batty and the harshness of a Danish referee all played their part, but Hoddle's tendency to claim the credit for victories and blame others for defeats was one of the less edifying aspects of England's tournament.

He has admitted England have learned from the experience. Why can he not show the humility to confess to his own mistakes? At 40, with no previous experience of international management, no one should expect him to have as sure a touch as the likes of Aimé Jacquet or Mario Zagallo.

Hoddle's England will be a threat in Euro 2000 but the Dutch will start favourites. They were perhaps the best all-round team but, with Dennis Bergkamp going missing, wearied by five weeks being driven around this large country, they could not fulfil their potential. France, their confidence rising along with their countrymen's enthusiasm, were ultimately worthy winners. Strong at the back, inventive and industrious in midfield, they overcame the absence of a goalscorer through the enterprise of Zinedine Zidane and the defenders.



The World Cup trophy is held aloft by a joyous French side after their comprehensive 3-0 win over the holders Brazil at the Stade de France on Sunday

In the final they exposed Brazil's weaknesses - Dunga's lack of mobility, Junior Balano's ineptness, Ronaldo's lack of fitness and support - better than anyone, which was a triumph for the once derided Jacquet. At the end of the semi-final he had turned to his predecessor, Gerard Houllier, now French director of football, and said: "This is our victory." So it was. The pair have been instrumental in the development of both Clairefontaine, the superbly-equipped retreat near Paris which the squad use as a training base, and the overhaul of French youth coaching. This World Cup has been a priority and the current squad has been carefully brought to

the boil. The age range of Sunday's XI was a narrow 26-30 years. And so to Japan and South Korea in 2002. Given the distances involved the tournament will be the most demanding ever, especially if FIFA condense the competition. It will also, assuming the yen does not collapse completely, be the most expensive, which will significantly reduce travelling support. Together with the time difference, many are games are likely to kick off at European breakfast time; this may make it less avidly followed. By then the game's rampaging commercialism could have turned people off anyway.

For now it is time to treasure the

images of France quatre-vingt-dix-huit. On a personal level this includes watching Brazil v Chile in a Brazilian samba bar in Paris, but there were other moments we all shared: the kangaroo hop of Mexico's Cuauhtemoc Blanco, the inspirational Jose Luis Chilavert going round his players after the defeat to France. Oliver Bierhoff's heading, the Dutch and Brazilians both playing four up and two back in extra-time. Michael Owen's goal.

If nothing else that last memory will still warm the heart during Wimbledon v Leicester on a Monday night in December which, at the bottom line, is what World Cups are all about. It was not so bad really.

Sir Aimé savours final say

An ordinary man stamped his extraordinary personality on building a winning team. By John Lichfield

THE RESEMBLANCES between Aimé and Alf are striking. Their countries had never won the World Cup before; they were playing at home; their preparatory matches were unimpressive; they insisted that they could, or would, win.

Both were mocked by the press as taciturn, dour, provincial, little men, who imposed their personalities on their teams; both had the courage to drop glamorous players (Greaves, Cantona), who were not performing for the common good. Both favoured functional, energetic football over flair and fantasy.

Both were both proved right: both won the World Cup. Arise, Sir Aimé Jacquet, the Alf Ramsey of France.

There is another point of resemblance. Jacquet, like Ramsey before him, never forgets a slight, or abandons a grudge. In his moment of triumph at the Stade de France on Sunday night, Jacquet could not prevent himself from referring to the three-year campaign of vilification he had endured in the Parisian press, especially at the hands of the great sports daily, *L'Equipe*.

"For a long time, we have been betrayed by the newspapers. I will never forgive them," Jacquet said. "The French public was behind us and they understood that we had a great French team, despite a certain press, which lied shamefully."

And yet, in a sense, *L'Equipe* was right all along. This was a French team which - Zidane apart - lacked offensive flair, which sometimes lacked offense of any kind. It was a French team which abandoned the glorious, swashbuckling traditions of the Platini era: and, most of all, the tradition of glorious defeat.

To that extent Aimé Jacquet, 57, has changed France. A nation which scorned "little" victories - at football, at rugby, at anything - has learned in the last five weeks to love to win for its own sake.

Now, at the height of his success and acclaim, Jacquet (unlike Ramsey) intends to walk away; his final revenge on the press box critics who are finally, ungrudgingly, praising him. He confirmed yesterday, that, despite the pleas of his players, he will retire after the World Cup perhaps to turn up in a lucrative coaching job abroad.

As a player, at Saint Etienne and Olympique Lyonnais - and twice only for France - Jacquet was a tough wing-half in the old style. As a manager at Lyons, and then, successfully at Bordeaux (three French titles and two French cups), he was a grinder-out of results, a George Graham rather than a Ron Atkinson. His successful Bordeaux team of 1984-7 was a by-word for efficient boredom.

Hence the Metropolitan press bias against him, compounded by the dull and unsuccessful performance

of his French squad in Euro 96 in England.

Watching Jacquet in his public appearances at the French training camp at Clairefontaine over the past five weeks, it was difficult not to like and admire the man. He is bookish, thoughtful, precise, passionate in his own way. There is something academic about him, despite his modest background (also much-mocked) as a butcher's son from the Alpine foothills, who worked in a factory while fighting his way into the Saint Etienne team in the early 1960s.

Through every moment of every match, even when he danced with uncharacteristic abandon after the golden goal against Paraguay, Jacquet carried his little exercise-book. What on earth was the book for, a Brazilian journalist finally asked? Did he ever make notes in it? No, said Jacquet. It contained plans and ideas; notes that he had made months before. It was not a diary or a work-in-progress but a User's Manual. It contained the simple

outline of how he wanted his team to play. "In the heat of the match, it is easy to forget how you want to play. I look in the book to remind me."

Asked on another occasion, what qualities he most expected of his team, he said, "Effort, effort and effort." But he also spoke, rather movingly, of how important it was to establish a personal relationship with each of the 22 players in his squad, to manage the nerves and the egos of the first-choice players and the disappointment of the reserves. (Since he needed all 19 outfield players in the end, this was time well invested).

The point about Jacquet is that he is very un-French. He could be the manager of a Yorkshire team in the Nationwide First Division. He has no care for personal appearance. His hedgehog hair-cut, his invariable tracksuit or supermarket sports jacket suit have been richly mocked. Even the French women's magazines joined in the media lynching on this point.

But the ineffectual appearance is misleading. His players paid tribute to his powers of inspirational leadership, the clarity and precision of his coaching, the depth of his preparatory homework on the opposition. Youri Djorkaeff described him, simply, on Sunday night as "extraordinary", an interesting word to choose of a man so often decried as ordinary.

Most of all, Jacquet turned out to have the one quality indispensable to successful politicians and football managers: good luck. He produced a very good French team but not, despite his claims, a great French team. Just like in 1966, "very good" turned out to be all it took to win the trophy in a non-vintage year in which there were no great teams.



Aimé Jacquet: Difficult not to like and admire the man

Coronation began without the heir apparent

THE ODDS-ON favourites may have been turned over in the World Cup final itself but in the battle between our two broadcasters the result went more or less as expected, with the BBC's strong midfield of panelists holding sway on the night.

Most viewers would probably have given the initial advantage to ITV. They came out early to warm up, with Bob Wilson appearing Pimpernel-like, in a variety of Parisian locations - roof terrace, stadium pitch, broadcasting gallery - throughout Sunday in order to remind us that it was "Brian Moore's big day".

They also scraped together two other football programmes, after the three on Saturday, as though laying pieces of cheese towards a mouse trap. But then the trap snapped shut on their own fingers.

STAN
HEY

VIEW FROM
THE
ARMCHAIR



Having scheduled a special World Cup edition of *Coronation Street* to start five minutes before the BBC's programme, it must have been confident of an early lead. But the BBC were able to open up with the astonishing story that would have silenced the party in the Rovers Return - Ronaldo was out of the Brazilian team.

So while one of the biggest

dramas in World Cup history was unfolding, ITV were stuck in a Lancastrian soap opera. Meanwhile, the BBC panel were handing the story around as though it was a recently severed electricity cable. Gary Lineker has just finished discussing Ronaldo's absence with David Ginola, when he announced "This must be the biggest wind-up ever, because I'm hearing in my ear piece that Ronaldo will play."

Back at the studio, Des held up the official team sheet to camera to prove that if it was a wind-up it had been an official one. After a short interruption for an *EastEnders* segment, the story became clearer thanks to Inspector Motty in the stadium. "There's a new team sheet and he's in. I've just sent Ray Stubbs over to see Pele," Motty shrieked as

his trousers tightened. His evidence for Ronaldo's injury was the fact that he had noticed, as only Motty would, "that Ronaldo didn't kneel down for the team photo" before the game against the Netherlands. "I think Trevor Brooking's next to me," Motty guessed confirming what the camera was already showing. "He is," Motty shouted as though his forensic powers had turned psychic.

So by the time the ITV broadcast got underway they had almost completely missed the boat and Bob Wilson's sickly grin reflected their embarrassment. But at least they'd had the time to put more detail on the story - Ronaldo's hospital check-up, the late arrival at the ground, his reinstatement in the team. "Might be silly games," Terry Venables suggested, revealing something about

the coaching mentality he'll bring to Crystal Palace. Despite the evidence of turmoil in the Brazilian camp, only one of the pundits on either channel, Glenn Hoddle, opted for France.

Given these extraordinary preliminaries it was hardly surprising that both sets of commentary teams seemed muted. "Nerves will be strained to the limit," Brian Moore predicted, as though talking about himself. Motty was back on to his prepared script wondering "just how proud Jules Rimet would be, had he lived to see this day", failing to add that Rimet would have needed to be 123 years old to achieve this.

Indeed, watching the coverage back-to-back it was remarkably similar in detail and tone, with Kevin Keegan and Trevor Brooking - whose World Cup careers lasted just the 16

minutes for which they were brought on together against Spain in 1982 - still being brothers in banality. Keegan told us that "even with a sore ankle Ronaldo will be a real handful", while Brooking was more dubious of the centre-forward's effectiveness: "He's static, not mobile at all".

Meanwhile, Moore and Motson swapped the same statistics and both took a long time to identify Zinedine Zidane as the scorer of the first two goals. At one point Motson even became convinced that Romario was on the field. The suspicion was that both presenters had prepared overwhelmingly for a Brazil victory and were knocked out of their stride by France's ascendancy. "They'll suck the Brazilians on now," Keegan said, dangerously out-lining the French tactics for the second half.

The last minutes delivered a dream "Arsenal goal". Keegan summoned a telling tribute to the French - "they showed the invention, they showed the commitment" - while Moore just stopped himself in time from rubbishing the presentation ceremony along the lines of "we do this better at Wembley". Instead he bade a gracious farewell, "that's the final whistle for me... but the real news here tonight is that France are the world champions".

But pathetic endings on both channels followed the excitement with Des bizarrely reciting Kipling over a fluting aria to sum up the emotions of the tournament, while his rival Bob Wilson was moved to salute "great goals and record ratings".

Mais pas ce soir, Josephine...

Far East sweating on 2002 deadline

The next World Cup promises to be hot, in political and climatic terms.
By Richard Lloyd-Parry in Tokyo

IF THERE was one month in the whole year, when you would advise somebody not to visit Japan or South Korea it would be the period ending this weekend, between mid-June and mid-July, the time of *tsuyu*, or the rainy season.

For four weeks, the air hangs around you like a hot, wet flannel draped against your face. The moisture gets into wardrobes and chests - left un-aired, shoes are transformed into living colonies of sused-green mould. The constant switch between chilly air conditioning and humid external heat causes colds and headaches; last week seven elderly people died of heat stroke as temperatures approached 40 degrees.

But apart from being the rainy season, June and July are the months of the World Cup. Four years from now, when the soccer fans and teams of the world descend upon Seoul and Tokyo for the 2002 tournament, this is the sweaty reality they will encounter. On Tuesday, Michel D'Hooghe, chairman of Fifa's medical committee, warned of the effects upon players of the heat and humidity.

The World Cup has faced, and survived, similar meteorological challenges in the past (most recently in the Florida fixtures in 1994). But the rainy season is only one of the questions hanging over the 2002 tournament - geographically, politically, logistically and economically, it will be a unique event. While it is too early to predict success or disaster, it will certainly be the most complicated World Cup ever staged.

It is for a start, the first ever to be hosted by two countries - after intense rivalry between Japan and South Korea, and a back-room coup against Joao Havelange, Fifa awarded the Cup jointly, to the initial disappointment of both sides. South Koreans have never got over the bitterness of 35 years of Japanese colonial rule although as near neighbours, the two nations are well used to cooperating in business.

They have agreed so far that Japan will host the final - in return, South Korea will get the opening game and first billing in the tournament's official title (2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan). In the first round, the eight groups of four teams each will be split between the two hosts. But in general the two committees seem content to operate with a cool independence of one another - hopes that soccer would be the force to finally bring the two rivals together have not, so far, been fulfilled. But the enmity between the two hosts has been eclipsed by a much more immediate concern - about the state of their economies, both hard hit by the Asian crisis. Japan, for all its worries about recession, remains the second richest country in the world; of the 10 stadia likely to host games, two have already been completed,

including Yokohama International Stadium where the final is most likely to be held. But South Korea's economy has been wrecked, and the country has had to turn to the IMF for a \$60 billion bail-out.

The bullet train connection between Seoul and Pusan, for instance, has been cancelled. In April, a giant new stadium was put on hold but revived a month later. "Korea lags far behind Japan in making preparations for the World Cup games," wrote the *Korea Herald*. "Vacillation and delay in choosing the site for the main games has lasted so long as to cast doubt on the capacity of the country to be one of the co-hosts of the 2002 competition."

Details such as marketing, ticketing and merchandising have yet to be worked out and - publicly at least - the TV rights have not yet been assigned. Security will be a big concern, especially to a country like Japan which has virtually no street crime (South Korean riot police, by contrast, are battle hardened from annual confrontations with their own students). The fact of two hosts raises obvious questions about visas for fans who wish to visit both countries - British visitors to both countries can simply get their passports stamped at the airport, but other nationalities may receive an ID card valid for South Korea and Japan.

No World Cup has ever been played so far east - both Tokyo and Seoul are eight hours ahead of London, and 13 hours or more ahead of South America. England's evening match against Argentina kicked off at 4am Japan time. Suggestions that games should be played at midnight, for the benefit of the all-important European TV audience, have been firmly quashed by Asian officials. "It is absurd to think of such things," said Peter Velappan, general secretary of the Asian Football Confederation.

"Football is played by players, human beings." Late evening fixtures are a likely compromise, avoiding the heat of the day and reaching the European lunchtime and American early morning.

The most intriguing complication is the potential involvement of North Korea. The South's Stalinist brother whose one million troops lurk behind the last Cold War frontier in the world. Fears of North Korean invasion have receded as the country has sunk deeper into famine and economic collapse but the South, under its new president, Kim Dae Jung, still hopes to use the tournament to make overtures to the North, a repressive police state which presently excludes all but a handful of foreign visitors.

The prospect of marking rapprochement between the two Koreas with a World Cup fixture or two is enticing - both to soccer officials in Seoul and to Fifa. But with just four years to go, it is still a very long way off.



France's heroes wave to their adoring fans at the Arc de Triomphe as they head down the Champs Elysées yesterday

Reuters

French find a new identity

"ALL IS for the best in this the best of all possible worlds." I admit that, technically, I am quoting Pangloss in Voltaire's satirical novel *Candide* of 1758, but similar sentiments were being expressed in Paris yesterday. Voltaire reckoned that this brand of Utopian optimism had been definitively blown out of the water by the mid-18th century Lisbon earthquake, and it never quite recovered, not for the Revolution (1789), not even the Liberation (1944). But in the wake of the 1998 World Cup final, as the French team processed triumphantly aboard an extremely slow-moving double-decker bus up the Champs Elysées, blocked by a million people or so, it was as if Pangloss was at last back in the driving seat.

Lucien is the kind of guy you usually see being hassled by police in the Metro who want to see his papers: young, black, baseball hat, denim, and trainers. Yesterday was different, though. He was taking the day off and so were the police. "Yesterday," he started, echoing Paul McCartney, and carried on in lyrical fashion by saying, in effect, that all his troubles seemed so far away. "Yesterday, that was for eternity. Nothing will be the same henceforth. You're lucky to be here at this time. For the older generation, it was the Liberation. This is our liberation. This is the day on which we are all re-born. Football is the sport of the future."

Way up on the giddy heights of the Arc de Triomphe, all



ANDY MARTIN
AT LARGE IN
FRANCE



along the rooftops, climbing up trees and lamp-posts and waving flags about, the new spirit of bourgeois millennial thinking was abroad. From babes in arms to old ladies and schoolgirls with "Zidane" and "Barthez" and "3-0" painted on their faces, this was not so much a crowd of football fans, more a microcosm of the nation or, indeed, of the Empire.

Gerard Charrier had not taken a lot of interest in football until the semi-final. This telecommunications specialist in his forties with five kids was keener on the Tour de France. But seeing the France-Croatia game turned him around, and now he was sitting at a Champs Elysees brasserie, with his wife and two young children, watching Jane Austen in French and his teenage daughter, waiting to pay homage along with everyone else.

"It is unique in our history,"

he said. And he wasn't just talking about winning the final. It was all to do with a new mentality. "The Brazilians made the mistake of putting too much faith in one player. Whereas we - it is the first time that we have had a team so welded together." And he thought that the nation as a whole reflected this new sense of collectivity. "Everyone, whatever their origins, is saying *Aller la France* - which delivers a firm negation to certain political tendencies."

The poll published in *Le Monde* a week ago, suggesting that France was by some distance the most racist nation in Western Europe, or at least the most explicitly racist, was going to have to be re-counted. France was re-inventing itself in front of my eyes and had become something more along the lines of Brazil, not just in terms of football, but confidently multi-racial and hedonistic to boot. Admittedly, there was a degree of euphoric mythologizing going on, a symptom of World Cup fever, but then France takes mythologies very seriously.

A new French identity has been taking shape over the last month. Perhaps it could be made out on the T-shirt I noticed one guy wearing, emblazoned with a picture of Rodin's familiar "Thinker", but now

transformed with the addition of a pair of shorts and a ball beneath his feet.

Not absolutely everyone in Paris is rolling along with this metamorphosis, however. As I slumped exhausted on to my seat on the Metro, the attractive thirtysomething woman opposite me wondered what all the excitement had been about. "Some men running about behind a ball - bo! - that doesn't excite me," she said, slapping me down for my naive enthusiasm.

"I've noticed a lot of French people getting carried away by it all," I said.

"I'll let myself get carried away," she said, "but not by that. I'm going to see some men-friends now. Fortunately, they don't play football." She gave me an enigmatic smile.

I imagine that the Panglossian attitude won't last, and that people will return, like *Candide*, to cultivating their own gardens again after this flirtation with a feeling of global Utopia. But a seismic shift has nevertheless taken place in France, and yesterday, as Lucien so poetically put it, is for eternity.

Andy Martin, from the French Department of Cambridge University, has been observing the World Cup scene for *The Independent*.

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Think it's all over? It's only just begun

IF ANYTHING was designed to send World Cup widows searching for the nearest divorce solicitor it was the BBC on Sunday. No sooner had the screen dimmed on France versus Brazil when a trailer came on for the start of the Premiership campaign. You thought it was all over? Think again.

Rather than signal the end of a long, weary season, the World Cup final is virtually the hors-d'oeuvre to the new domestic programme. The first competitive match in England is on Sunday when Crystal Palace play in the Intertoto Cup, the Nationwide League season begins in 25 days, the Premiership a week later. The

Players may be fresh for the new season, but can the fans keep up with the pace? By Guy Hodgson

old close season has become diminished, as in close to nothing. Arsenal, the champions, had already begun pre-season friendlies - against Boreham Wood on Friday - 48 hours before Emmanuel Petit and Patrick Vieira played in the Stade de France. Their non-World Cup players were hailed from their summer breaks on 7 July and they will be joined by the refugees from France 98 according to their progress in the

competition. Hence the England players will arrive on 21 July and the French and Dutch will stagger in on 1 August.

Manchester United, who will meet Arsenal at Wembley in the Charity Shield three weeks on Sunday, resumed training on Friday and, when they are joined by their England contingent, will play a friendly against Birmingham City on 25 July. The following day they leave for a 10-day tour of Scandinavia.

Their Champions' League qualification campaign begins on 15 August, but that is tardy in comparison to Crystal Palace who greet the new manager-ship of Terry Venables with what they hope will be the start of a journey into the UEFA Cup. They play a home Intertoto game against the Turkish side Samsunspor this weekend, which has sharply curtailed the players' summer break.

Contrary to expectation, the surfeit of football has left them fresh. "If anything the World Cup has helped," Terry Fenwick, Palace's first-team coach, said. "It's been such a tremendous competition that the players have arrived on the training

ground inspired by what they have seen. It's not been difficult to work up enthusiasm. The players know we've got an important season ahead of us."

It helps that there is a new manager to impress. "Sunday will be Terry's first game in charge," Fenwick said, "and there are places in the team up for grabs. The players have a chance to show themselves."

So do the Manchester City players, although this week they have been more likely to impress aloft than amid the depths of a division they will be charting for the first time in their history. This week they have been undertaking naval training on HMS Raleigh in Ply-

Place your bets please

By Ian Davies

THE CROATIAN striker, Davor Suker, won the World Cup Golden Boot award as top scorer with six goals. His goal in Croatia's 2-1 win over the Netherlands in Saturday's third place play-off took him one clear of Gabriel Batistuta, of Argentina, and Christian Vieri, of Italy, each on five.

Suker was 33-1 with book-makers to win the Golden Boot at the start of the tournament with Brazil's Ronaldo the 5-1 favourite. It would have needed at least a hat-trick in France's 3-0 win over Brazil in Sunday's final for Suker's tally to have been overtaken going in to the final game. Although Zinedine Zidane scored twice for France, only Ronaldo had any realistic chance of overhauling Suker.

The Croatian team's pride in their achievement - of finishing third overall in the tournament at their first attempt - will remain the lasting memory and the players celebrated Saturday's victory as though they had won the Cup itself.

"I am the happiest man in the world," Suker said. "It's great for a small country like ours to finish third in the World Cup. It's almost as good as winning it."

Some of the team's results will be remembered for a long time, abroad as well as at home. The quarter-final victory over three-time champions Germany, revenge for defeat in Euro 96, was the high point of the campaign.

Whether or not Croatia will manage to repeat their performance in future tournaments remains to be seen, but book-makers have already started taking bets on Euro 2000 and the next World Cup.

Despite their poor showing in the final on Sunday, Brazil have been installed as the 3-1 favourites with the Tote for the 2002 World Cup.

The beaten quarter-finalists, Argentina and Italy, are 8-1 co-second-favourites along with the Netherlands, beaten semi-finalists. France and Germany are 9-1, while the bookmakers clearly have faith in England's future, offering just 10-1.

The Netherlands are the 5-1 favourites for Euro 2000 with the Tote. France are 11-2, England are joint third favourites at 7-1, along with Italy.

2002 World Cup Tote: 3-1 Brazil, 8-1 Argentina, Netherlands, Italy, 8-1 France, Germany, 10-1 England, 11-1 Spain, 25-1 Croatia, 40-1 Nigeria, Yugoslavia, 50-1 Denmark, Portugal, Romania, 60-1 Chile, Norway, 80-1 Japan, Mexico, 100-1 Czech Republic.

Euro 2000 Tote: 5-1 Netherlands, 11-2 France, 7-1 England, Italy, 15-2 Germany, 8-1 Spain, 12-1 Croatia, 20-1 Belgium, Yugoslavia, 25-1 Norway, Romania, 28-1 Denmark, 33-1 Portugal, Russia, Sweden, 50-1 Bulgaria, 60-1 Czech Republic, Scotland, 100-1 Austria, Greece, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, 200-1 Republic of Ireland, 250-1 Northern Ireland, 500-1 Wales.

mouth in preparation for their first friendly proper, a testimonial against Sunderland at Maine Road on Saturday.

"It's a bonding exercise," their manager, Joe Royle, said, "but also an important part of our fitness programme. It's no secret I wasn't happy with our durability last season and we conceded far too many goals late in games. We cannot afford to do the same again."

Same again. It is hard not to feel jaded by the thought of a new season just around the corner. It is just as well the players are fresh because the spectators, square-eyed from five weeks of World Cup football, are exhausted.

"INCREDIBLE, CRAZY, unimaginable, fabulous, fantastic. We don't know what we have to say, cry or scream to state the truth, we are the champions of the world." The French newspaper, *Aujourd'hui*, tries to keep its reaction in check - and fails. "A tricolour orgasm." How France *soit* described what the French coach, Aimé Jacquet, had given France. "A century of world football ended this morning at dawn, after a night of jubilation which overwhelmed our country in a way which has not happened, with no exaggeration, since the Liberation." *L'Equipe*. "They snuffed out the magicians of Brazil. They are the champions of the world. The last of this millennium. Stupendous." *Le Figaro*.

THE GLOBAL GAME

WORLD CUP AROUND THE WORLD

"The team's success creates today hope of escape from the long tunnel of economic depression." The left-leaning daily *Liberation* saw France's first World Cup victory as a chance for the country to escape from the economic gloom which has depressed the people and left three million out of work.

"There was July 14, 1789, the date when the Bastille, symbol of the old regime, was taken by the people of Paris. The date when the French Revolution began. And there is July 12, 1998, the date of the French football victory in the World Cup, team in the World Cup,

France's World Cup. And the date for the new French Revolution. Nothing will ever be the same again." *Aujourd'hui* again.

"This unique collective adventure in this country's life must find a continuation, a continuation which will allow us to live together more confidently and more happily." *Le Parisien*.

"Zidane, master of the world," said *L'Equipe* in a tribute to the new national hero, Zinedine Zidane, a son of Algerian immigrants, who scored France's first two goals.

Algerian newspapers

crowned Zinedine Zidane "King of France" after his two goals.

"Zidane was dazzling," said daily *El Watan*, joining in the columns of praise in the press of the former French colony for the player whose parents came from the Kabylie region, 200 kms east of Algiers.

"Zidane floored Brazil," ran *Authentique* newspaper above a front-page picture of the French playmaker and his team-mates holding the trophy.

Zidane, whose first name Zinedine means "beauty of the faith" in Arabic, headed two of the goals but Demain *L'Algerie* daily gave him almost sole credit for the French victory.

Its headline was simply: "Zidane 3 Brazil 0".

HOW THE PUNDITS FARED

Before the start of the World Cup, the *Independent* printed the predictions of some of the country's foremost football pundits. Here is how they fared.

Winners (tipped France): Jack Charlton; John Motson, Alan Green (both BBC); Kevin Keegan (ITV); Brian Madley (Sunday People).

Runners-up (tipped Brazil): Alan Hansen, Gary Lineker, Barry Davis, Jimmy Hill (all BBC); Andy Gray, Alan Parry, Alan Mullery (all Talk Radio); Martin Samuel (Daily Express); Glenn Moore (The Independent); David Baddiel (comedian); David Ginola.

Nearly there (tipped the Netherlands who lost in the

semi-finals to Brazil): Brian Moore (ITV); Rob King (Daily Star).

Not quite (tipped Argentina who lost in the quarter-finals to the Netherlands): Terry Venables; Henry Winter (The Daily Telegraph).

Not quite (tipped Germany - lost in the quarter-finals to Croatia): John Inverdale (BBC).

Better luck next time (tipped England who lost in the second round to Argentina): Bob Wilson (ITV); Harry Harris (The Mirror).

IN FRANCE WITHOUT A TICKET

Nicholas Harling's daily quest to see a World Cup match: Day 2?

POSSESSION OF a World Cup final ticket does not necessarily equal happiness or peace of mind. The worry of looking after that prized piece of paper is almost as bad as searching for one in the first place. For over a month since I had acquired my most sought after seat, I had guarded it with my life. If I had been mugged, I would have let them take anything else but not that ticket. How often did I check that that ticket was still among the splitting plastic bags that I had trailed around France.

Nightly I would have slept with it underneath my pillow if only the host of one-star establishments in which I crashed had provided pillows. That seat, worth 950F, had cost me 1572F. It was cheap at the price. Outside the Stade de France last night, a few tickets were going for 10,000F or more.

Prices were almost as high on Saturday night before the third place final. I had paid 390F for a 300F ticket in advance but 2,000F was about the lowest anyone paid outside. When was a third-place final ever so popular?

Total games 26. Total cost price 11,120F. Total price paid 12,222F. Three failures to get in.

SPORT

WRIGHT BECOMES A HAMMER P25 • KUCHAR THE HAPPY AMATEUR P22

Ronaldo just happy to be alive

BY TREVOR HAYLETT



RONALDO ANSWERED the great World Cup final mystery last night when he revealed he had suffered a convulsive fit in the hours leading up to the game. He said that at one stage he had feared for his life. It was the first time the 21-year-old had spoken about the confusion surrounding his initial absence from the Brazilian team sheet for the game, which France won 3-0, and goes a long way to explaining not only his own abject performance but also that of his team.

Ronaldo told the Brazilian television station, National Globo Television, about the attack, in which he reportedly swallowed his tongue. "It was a tremendous scare. We lost the World Cup but I won another cup - my life," he said.

"I don't remember properly but I went to sleep and then it seems I had a fit for 30 or 40 seconds. I woke up and my whole body was in pain. But with time the pain got less and I relaxed a bit."

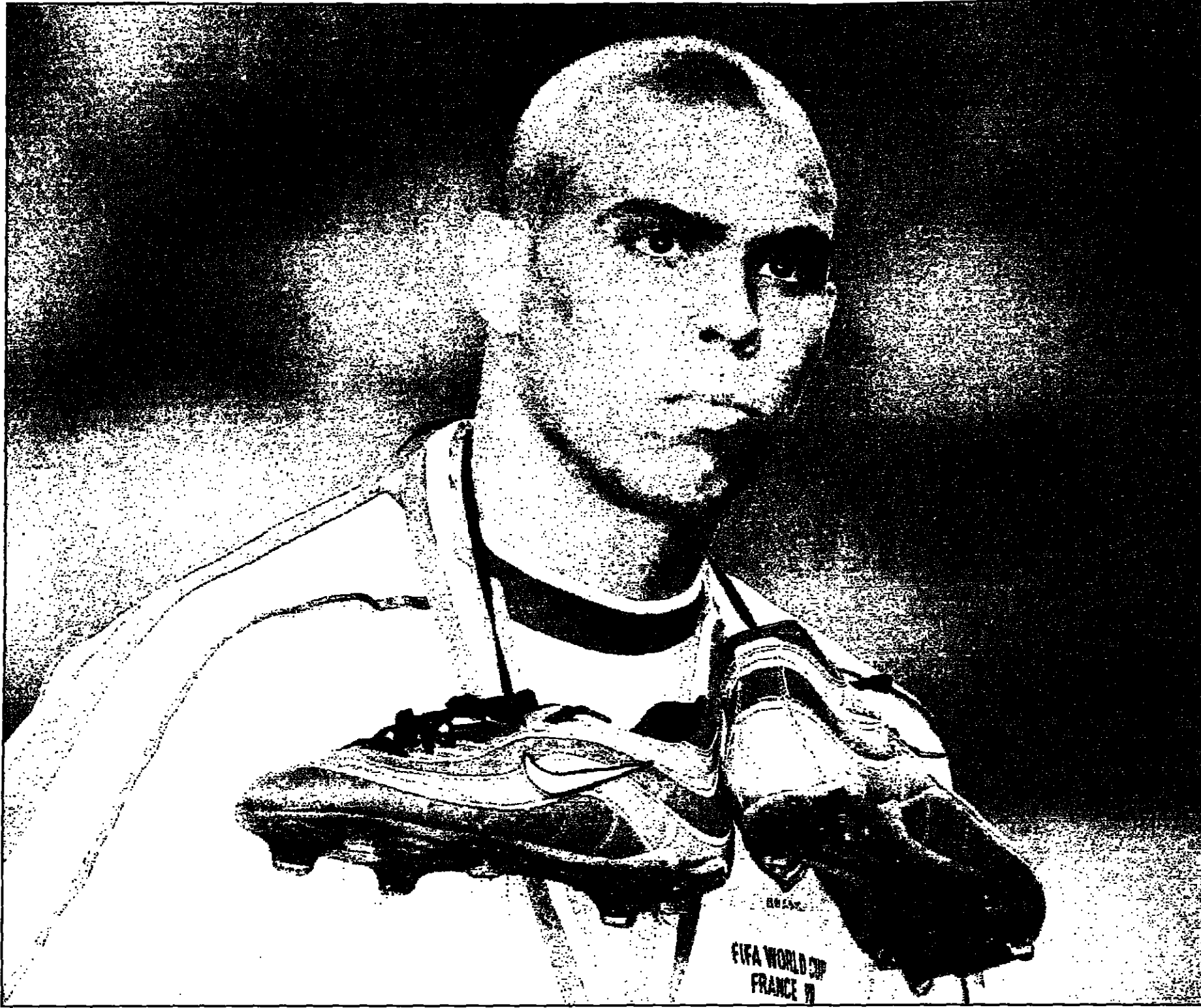
Ronaldo said that after hospital tests, which he said revealed no problem, he decided he was able to play in the final. "I could have chickened out but I decided to play and I went out there to help the team. I don't want to find any excuses for the defeat. They [France] played well and were better than us."

The Brazilian team doctor said he had rushed Ronaldo to hospital, where he underwent several tests including a check on his heart. "Everything was normal so I came to the conclusion that it had to be some nervous fit," Lidio Toledo explained. "I took him to the hospital and asked for a thorough test, like electro-sonography and electro-cardiogram." Toledo said that Ronaldo had suffered an "emotional stress."

Although the revelations explained Ronaldo's own lacklustre performance there will be those who will question whether he should have been allowed to play at all. Pele said in a television talk show that Ronaldo should not have played. "What surprised me most is that he went on to play even in the second half," he said.

As France continued to celebrate its historic triumph yesterday the rest of the footballing world was consumed by the Ronaldo debate. In particular questions were being asked about the extent to which the Brazilian coach, Mario Zagallo, had relented to dressing room pressure and reinstated Ronaldo on the team sheet after initially naming Edmundo in his place.

There had been constant speculation during the five week tourna-



Ronaldo, who suffered a convulsive fit hours before the World Cup final kicked off on Sunday, watches as the trophy is placed in French hands

fit but said: "He's under more pressure than anybody else in the world and all that's happened has left him very distressed."

"I think it was emotional. Ronaldo made an effort to play but he was down. At about four o'clock in the afternoon he suddenly got ill. It was like a malaise had come over him. It was strange. He's 21 years old, he gets millionaire contracts. It was obvious that this could happen to him. Unfortunately it happened on the day of the World Cup final."

"I have a wife, family and children to go home to, but he doesn't have that. Ronaldo doesn't have the support you need. I urge everyone just to leave the boy alone."

Whatever Ronaldo's problems, mental or otherwise, there can be no underestimating the devastating effect they had on a side who would seem to have the experience and alternative artillery to beat most other nations even without their brightest star. Brazil's 1962 World Cup-winning side were without Pele because of injury, a point that Zagallo was keen to drive home in his pre-match team talk, the coach having decided at that point to go without Ronaldo.

When word emerged at the St Denis stadium that Ronaldo would be missing from the biggest game of all confusion reigned and it was not helped by conflicting reasons for his absence.

Fifa said he had gone to hospital for X-rays on his left ankle and later said doctors had given him the all-clear to play. The Brazilian doctor, Toledo, said the player felt dizzy after lunch, while the team's press officer, Nelson Borges, said Ronaldo had vomited.

Whatever the true state of affairs, the Brazilians were apparently so traumatised by the prospect of going out without their chief goalscorer - or was it their way of persuading Zagallo to rethink his selection? - that they failed to appear for the normal warm-up routine out on the pitch.

The Brazil coach, who at 66 looks certain to have led his country for the last time, admitted after France's surprise victory that he was wrong to have played Ronaldo.

"The players had been upset that the first team sheet did not carry his name," Zagallo said after the match, fighting to hold back the tears.

"It was a traumatic shock and knowing he was not fit to play made us inhibited and inward looking. It was a major psychological blow. Everybody was very upset and very down and the team played to less than their full potential. All through the first half I was wondering if I should have taken him off. Now I realise I was wrong. I didn't think he was fit but Ronaldo told me he was. That's why I played him."

ment that egos were colliding in the Brazilian camp and destabilising their attempt to win a fifth championship. Neither the team nor their star performer were able to reach consistently the heights predicted. For Ronaldo that was blamed on anything from a nagging knee injury to the possibility that he was overweight and also to his depression over

a reported impending split with his fiancée, the Brazilian model Suzana Werner. Ronaldo denied them all.

Another piece of conjecture yesterday concerned the possibility that Nike, the sportswear manufacturer who sponsor both Ronaldo and the Brazilian team and also his Italian club Internazionale, had applied pressure to ensure Ronaldo's

appearance in the biggest game of all. In a statement issued last night by the Italian arm of the Nike empire, on the instructions of the company's headquarters in the United States, those reports were dismissed as "absolutely false".

It said: "What is true is that last night's game was the most important of Ronaldo's career: To play the final

of a World Cup is the dream of any player. Ronaldo included. Ronaldo and Zagallo decided together to crown this dream which the Brazilian player - probably - deserved to live. In all of this Nike did not interfere in any way and, besides, why should it have?"

As the dispirited, dethroned South Americans headed home the focus of the inquest into their sur-

prise defeat began to centre on the mental well-being of a young man only two years out of his teens and on whom the entire world, and not just 160 million Brazilians, place such towering expectations.

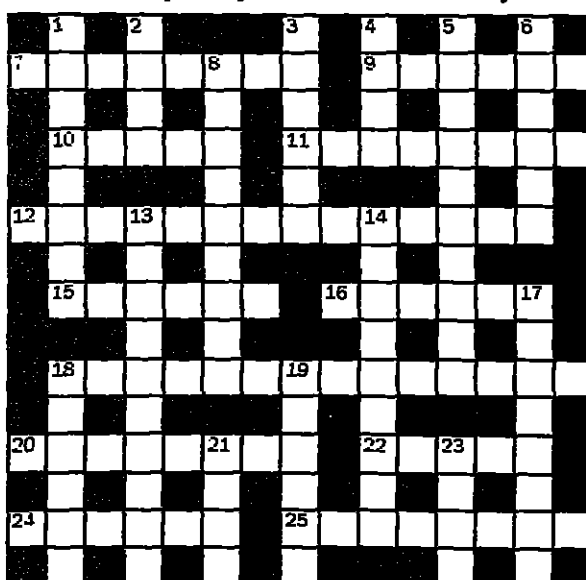
Robert Carlos, the left back and Ronaldo's room-mate for the 55 days they have spent in France, did not refer specifically to a convulsive

THE TUESDAY CROSSWORD

No 3662, Tuesday 14 July

By Aelred

Monday's Solution



LOOKUP TO CANOPY
FURNITURE
MERO UNCOLOURED
N S W I D M
HOUSEFLY MAIL
U F E
STREET HOUSEGASS
H O
GRAFFMAN RUNAT
E H N I S
A P E O C C A S I O N
U I R Y O I C
B U Y C A U G H E R A I N
S I E E N N A
R E M A I N B A S C A L L Y

ACROSS

- 6 Run-down region? (2,4)
9 & 10 Leaves advertising? (6,5)
11 Loyal supporter of law changed in the beginning (8)
12 How Prohibition was reported? (6,8)
15 Fall down over party support (6)
16 Something to cut nasty cyst on male (6)
18 The science of free radicals? (7,7)
20 Encourage to send payment for return of kitchen clock (3,5)

DOWN

- 22 Allowed lieutenant to go round here in France (5)
24 Steps taken to kill off grammar school (6)
25 Inn meals prepared by sporting assistant (8)
1 Drugs frame-up? (3,5)
2 Want to inscribe name in wood (4)
3 Dog star? (6)
4 Writer's name on article indicates a mindless talker (4)
5 Dull old twits we abandoned (4-6)
6 Happen to keep, for us, an exchange (6)

DOWN

- 8 Where you'll find liquid assets serve or supply Irish (9)
13 Exciting fix with acid (4-6)
14 Event last month at Irish place lacking energy (9)
17 Leave nut that's misshapen until the end (8)
18 Diving bird finds silver in lake (6)
19 Like a noble, awfully droll? It's unknown (6)
21 Is obliged to have mould in new wine (4)
23 Prepare to do robbery and get 12 bottles? (4)

Boardman's Tour ends in pain

CYCLING

BY ROBIN NICHOLL
in Cork

CHRIS BOARDMAN crashed out of the Tour de France minutes before his leader's yellow jersey was wrested from him by the German Erik Zabel.

"He could not remember the crash, so I have withdrawn him from the race," the Tour doctor, Gerard Forté, said. "He has a deep cut above one eye and is really groggy."

So ended Boardman's fifth Tour, with the British hero lying stunned at the side of the road some 57km from the finish of the 205.5km stage from Enniscorthy, a day that was to be a rapturous send-off for the Tour.

Boardman's Tour career has been studded with misfortune. After his triumphant debut in 1994, when he won the yellow jersey on the first day in Lille with a Tour record speed of 55.152kph, he crashed out on the opening day a year later.

Then he fractured an ankle and a wrist. He returned a year later to go the full distance to Paris. In Rouen last year he won the prologue time trial, but crashed in the mountains, displacing two vertebrae, which brought about his retirement.

Jean-Marie Leblanc, the Tour's director general, said: "Boardman was following his teammate Frederic Moncassin when his front wheel hit Moncassin's back wheel."

"He was forced into the side of the road, and fell, hitting his head against a wooden post."

As the medical team attended to Boardman yesterday, Zabel, who had already closed to within two seconds of the No 1 spot, triumphed in the third intermediate sprint at Youghal.

It made him Tour leader, because his win earned a time bonus of six seconds, which is deducted from his overall time. He had also picked up another six seconds from the first two intermediate sprints.

The second was outside the Sean Kelly Sports Centre in the Irish Tour ace's hometown, Carrick on Suir, where the area population of 5,000 quadrupled with spectators flooding in to join the celebrations, particularly in the pub that had been renamed Le Maillot Jaune (the Yellow Jersey).

Kelly himself stopped to take a pint of Guinness at the town's VIP stand before driving on to the finish, accompanied by a roar of cheering.

Kelly, four times the winner of the Tour's green jersey, which Zabel has won twice, led his townspeople in persuading Leblanc to permit the riders to race through the main street and past Sean Kelly Square.

They paid for the Tour director to fly over and he changed his mind about the stretch of road he thought was dangerous when the town agreed to make it safe.

It meant removing an historical stone near the West Gate, but it was done, and the road is now known as the People's Way.



Chris Boardman receives attention after crashing out of the Tour yesterday

Carrick was en fête, and so too was the rest of the South East as the race sped through New Ross, once home to the parents of former American president John F Kennedy.

before they left to make a new life in the United States. In Ireland's oldest city, Waterford, Tom Steels struck to take the first intermediate sprint ahead of Zabel, and the

battle for the yellow jersey warmed up. After the Carrick sprint, Zabel was a second closer to the colours than Steels, who had won Sunday's stage in Dublin.

TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



The bikers will be riding out to bury their dead again on Friday. This time, it's the turn of Daniel Fitzpatrick, British-born leader of The Brotherhood, shot dead (left) in Stockholm by person or persons unknown. There, police believe the notorious biker wars will be buried with the man who led Europe's most violent chapter. Here, they're not so sure

The fast life and violent death of Danny the Hood

Stockholm is preparing a splendid send-off for a Briton who got on his bike and made his mark on the world. A detachment of Hell's Angels on gleaming Harleys will accompany Daniel Fitzpatrick's last journey to the Swedish capital's biggest cemetery on Friday. And spies of the Scandinavian underworld will be there, to ensure that Danny The Hood, "President" of Northern Europe's most violent biker fraternity, really is gone. While police in Britain are bracing themselves for an escalation of violence between our own home-grown Hell's Angels and their rapidly expanding rivals, The Outcasts, detectives in Scandinavia believe Fitzpatrick's burial will end a bikers' war that has seen 12 murders and 39 attempted killings in two years.

It was "a lucky shot", according to Detective Chief Inspector Lars Hamren of Stockholm's Serious Crime unit, that extinguished Fitzpatrick's life at the age of 45. The assailant had fired up to 25 rounds with a submachine gun at the Toyota Corolla Danny was driving. Most missed their target; some hit the houses near the roundabout where Danny was about to take his last spin. Only a single bullet struck him, but that embedded itself in his chest. Shortly after 10pm in the Nordic twilight of 18 June, the President of the feared Brödraskapet - "The Brotherhood" - was dead.

"A big piece of shit is gone," says Mr Hamren, who takes great pleasure in his task of heading the murder investigation. The attacker has dispatched a vicious robber, suspected cop-killer, one of the most voracious predators in the shallow pond of Scandinavian crime. Good riddance.

"Fitzpatrick used to pump himself up with steroids, but look how fat he has become recently," the Chief Inspector says contemptuously, fingering a police picture of Danny on the stretcher. The eyes are closed, the face expressionless, blood is seeping out of the wound on the left into a transparent plastic tube. He looks almost serene.

His corpulence is for all to see. Even as he lies there on his back, a blubbery mountain of a belly rises. Danny the muscle man could be six months' pregnant. Nevertheless, the thick upper arm would still strike the fear of God into an enemy. Not so much its girth, but the hand-sized tattoo engraved on it, with the pic-

BY IMRE KARACS

ture of a wolf in the middle, and the word "Brödraskapet" above. At the top-security prisons of Kumlä and Tidaholm, convicts flee in terror at the sight of it.

It was while in prison, serving an eight-year jail term for armed robbery, that Fitzpatrick, a Briton born in Kenya, brought "The Brotherhood" to life. There was just not enough mayhem around in Scandinavia in the early Nineties, but US-based biker clubs colonising the placid North seemed to hold great promise. On the streets, Hell's Angels were spreading their gospel, shortly to be countered by the Bandidos. Trapped behind bars and with no chance of cutting their coveted spurs, the cons formed their own biker clubs without bikes. "Brödraskapet", translated by Fitzpatrick into his native English for no apparent linguistic reason as "Wolfpack", was one such outfit.

Danny the Hood was a worthy leader. He had arrived in the late Eighties from Britain, for very prosaic girlfriend reasons. Running a garage in the south Stockholm suburb of Nacka - he was apparently very good at rust-proofing - he got mixed up early on with the wrong crowd. By 1992, when he was sent away for the armed robbery of a security van, he had already distinguished himself as one of Sweden's most savage criminals. A policeman had been killed in a robbery very similar to Danny's caper, but prosecutors failed to establish a link.

Nevertheless, suspected cop-killers are rare in Swedish jails and Fitzpatrick's notoriety assured him a place high in the pecking order of the prison world. He was big and strong and reputedly tough. With his gang behind him, Danny The Hood was not to be messed with.

And then came the war. In February 1994, a 23-year-old Hell's Angel was shot dead in Helsingborg, and two other club members were wounded. Retaliation against rival Bandidos soon followed, and within months the whole of Scandinavia's bike scene was ablaze.

In October 1996 a bomb went off at a Hell's Angel club in Malmö, southern Sweden, and a Hell's Angel party in Copenhagen was attacked with an anti-tank missile. The death toll stood at 12 and the injured at 70 when the two organisations reached a "truce" in September 1997. It has held ever since. Violence is now confined within each club.

But as a consequence of the war and the subsequent government crackdown, the prisons began to fill up with real bikers. Danny's troops freed in the meantime started to acquire Harleys of their own.

Inside and outside, the Brotherhood was drawn into the orbit of the Hell's Angels. Allegedly, Brotherhood members were hired by Hell's Angels for contracts they considered below their dignity: primarily knee-capping business associates. The Brotherhood set up its clubhouse in a southern district of Stockholm and prospered.

That is how things stood when Danny obtained his early release in January this year, itching to get to grips with his burgeoning syndicate. There were commissions aplenty: within weeks he had become involved in three different extortions, his outfit's main line of activity. In one transaction, the owner of a cleaning firm was made to sign over the deeds for the sum of 1 Swedish krona - less than 10 pence. Unfortunately for Danny, the victim ran to the police, as did the Norwegian tax exile blackmailed by the Brotherhood to the tune of five million kronor. Fitzpatrick was arrested and was due shortly to return to jail when he was mowed down near the roundabout.

So why take the trouble of killing a man who was about to disappear behind walls again? "Danny had many enemies," Mr Hamren says. The chief among them is a fellow Brotherhood member, who at Fitzpatrick's wild release party in January, attended by the best of the underworld, made less than submissive gestures to the boss. Danny pulled a gun and shot his "brother" in the knee. The victim was questioned by the police, but seems to have a perfect alibi. There are no other suspects at the moment, no one talks.

Per-Olov Forstlund, head of the organised crimes unit of the Swedish Criminal Intelligence Service, believes Fitzpatrick's murder was motivated by an internal power struggle. "Brotherhood members were all psychopaths and hardened criminals," he says. "When they came out they had trouble deciding who should be in charge."



After the infamous party, the Brotherhood fell apart, the owner changed the locks on the club house, and the Hell's Angels laid claim to the property. Some Brotherhood members joined the Hell's Angels, others simply rediscovered their love of cars.

There is, of course, the distinct possibility that the Angels bumped Danny off, perhaps because he was threatening their peaceful new ways. Bikers of every tribe have grown tired of the violence that has attracted so much police attention in recent years. Suspected of involvement in smuggling, gambling and prostitution rackets, the biker gangs are trying hard to polish up their image. Stockholm police have found no cause - to their regret - to raid the fortified clubhouse this year, and wonder whether claims of the Angels' links to organised crime are exaggerated.

The new, improved, meek variety of Hell's Angels now run a shop on a Stockholm high street, selling everything from T-shirts to stickers denouncing the helmet laws. Proceeds go to "our imprisoned brothers", the 40 or so Angels still locked up in Scandinavian jails for crimes ranging from GBH to murder.

Behind the counter, a polite, clean-shaven member of the gang fields the questions, for few real customers venture beyond the door. "Sure, I knew Danny," says this remarkably angelic Hell's Angel, declining to give his name. "Met him at a couple of parties. He seemed like a nice guy. Me - I had no trouble with him."

It may be the case that Scandinavia's dreaded biker gangs are involved these days in nothing more sinister than a touch of extortion, smuggling, and a bit of dope for their own consumption. If that is what has become of the once dreaded biker scene, then Danny The Hood is well out of it.

Already on his way to cult status, his place in posterity seems

assured. A few days after his murder, a paid-for eulogy appeared in Stockholm's *Dagens Nyheter* newspaper, a sort of ballad in a mixture of Swedish and English:

"To our loving Brother
Danny 'The Hood' Fitzpatrick
You were born a warrior
You lived like a warrior
You died like a warrior
Brother to the end
For ever love and respect
Your Brothers
Brödraskapet Wolfpack"

No one can fault the boys inside for sentimentality, but they seem just a little out of touch. In the scary world of Swedish prisons, where five convicts have been murdered in the past year, the "Brotherhood" and other gangs live on. But out in the streets peace reigns now, and warriors are redundant. Danny's funeral looks set to herald the cathartic end of an era.

It is an end British police can only pray for. Two weeks ago, the National Criminal Intelligence Service issued a circular to 37 police forces in England and Wales warning of the "possibility of armed conflict and the use of automatic weapons and explosives" by biker gangs.

The warning came in the wake of escalating violence between Hell's Angels members and their rivals, the Outcasts, a younger and rapidly expanding group of bikers intent upon domination.

The numbers do not make frightening reading, but their organisation, suspected armoury and capacity for rigid Cosa Nostra-like loyalty do not augur well for peace. The Outcasts have 200 members, compared with an estimated 230 Hell's Angels.

However, the Outcasts have formed an alliance with the Midlands-based Outlaws, a 150-strong gang who share their dislike of the Hell's Angels. That means they are in a strong position to challenge the 30-year supremacy of the Angels, and the signs are they are prepared to use extreme violence to succeed.

Already, during a number of skirmishes that have resulted in two deaths, bikers have used a home-made fertiliser bomb, automatic weapons and shotguns to inflict damage on their enemies. On top of that, police have seized at least one hand gun, two sub-machine guns, an AK assault rifle and parts of an Uzi 9mm automatic pistol.

At the height of the Scandinavian biker wars, the participants were using anti-tank missiles and rocket-propelled grenades to attack each other's clubhouses. All the signs are that a covert arms race is now under way here, as the two warring factions vie for power.

Perhaps the war is over on Danny's old patch, but it may just be beginning in the place he used to call home.

Additional reporting by Steve Boggan



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INSIDE

Letters 2
Leaders and comment 3-5
Obituaries 6-7
Features 8-9

Arts 10-11
Health 12-14
Media 15-20
Listings 21-22

Games 23
Radio 23
Satellite TV 23
Today's TV 24

MEDIA

The wonderful world of Pooh

"DO YOU collect stamps, Pooh?" said Christopher Robin.

It was a hot afternoon, and Winnie the Pooh, Christopher Robin and Piglet were sitting on the edge of the field, shaded by a tall tree.

"I don't know," said Pooh. "Do I collect stamps, Piglet?"

"I don't know," said Piglet. "What are stamps?"

"I don't know. What are stamps, Christopher Robin?" said Pooh.

"This is a stamp," said Christopher Robin, waving a big letter.

"This picture of an eagle on the top of the letter. The letter came all the way from America, and the stamp got it all the way here."

"How can the picture of a bird get a letter from America to here?" said Pooh.



MILES KINGTON

'That's what really hurts,' said Eeyore. 'Being made to talk like Americans'

"I'm not sure," said Christopher Robin, "but anyway it's a letter for me all the way from America."

"Has it got honey in it?" said Pooh.

"I hope not," said Christopher Robin, "because it will make the letter very sticky if it has."

He opened the envelope and read the letter in silence, frowning occasionally.

"Does it say anything about honey?" asked Pooh hopefully after a while.

"It's from a Mr Disney," said Christopher Robin, "and as far as I can make out he is offering us some money."

"How much?" said Pooh. "Why?" said Piglet.

"Well, he wants to buy all the rights to all our stories for ever and ever and be the only one who can turn them into films."

"Which stories?" said Christopher Robin. "These ones in which we have all our adventures. Like with Pooh getting his head stuck in the honey pot. And the Heffalump. And playing Pooh sticks."

"Someone wants to buy those?" said Pooh. "Let him have them. Do you think he would give us ten shillings?"

"I don't think so," said Christopher Robin. "I think he wants to give us about five million pounds."

There was a silence. Then a voice came from behind the tree.

"Did someone say they wanted to give us five million pounds?"

It was the lugubrious voice of Eeyore the donkey, who now came into sight.

"There'll be a catch in it. There always is," he sighed.

"Well," said Christopher Robin. "The money isn't really for all of us. It's just for me."

"I told you there'd be a catch," said Eeyore.

"Of course, I'll let you all have some," said Christopher Robin eagerly, "but it will have to come to me first, because I'm part of the family. And not just to the family."

"It's also going to Westminster School and the Garrick Club and..."

"What's a Garrick Club?" said Pooh.

"I expect it's what you play Garrick with," said Eeyore morosely.

"No," said Christopher Robin. "It's a place where old actors and writers pay a lot of money to go to meet each other."

"What on earth's the point of that?" said Eeyore. "If I were an old actor or writer, I'd try to get away from other ones. I'd pay lots of money to avoid them. I'd join a club where I'd be guaranteed not to meet other old actors and writers. I'd..."

"Are there stories about Westminster School and the Garrick Club?" said Pooh suddenly.

"I don't understand," said Christopher Robin. "What do you mean?"

"Well," said Pooh, "there are all these stories about you and me and Tigger and Roo and everyone, and all the money from them goes to the Garrick Club and the school, and I wondered if there were any stories about them, and the money from them would be coming to us?"

"No," said Christopher Robin. "I don't think so. Sorry."

"I didn't think there would be," said Eeyore.

"Would Mr Disney be turning this story into a film?" said Pooh. "This one about you getting the letter from him?"

"I don't think so," said Christopher Robin. "I think Mr Disney makes up his own stories about us. He uses us in new stories."

"He makes things happen to us that never really happened to us?" said Pooh, shocked.

"And gives us American accents," said Eeyore mournfully. "That's what really hurts. Being made to talk like Americans. For that, we should be paid. All of us. But we don't get anything."

"Nothing?" said Piglet. "Nothing," said Pooh. Then his eye fell on the letter from Mr Disney.

"Well," said Pooh, "at least we got a picture of a eagle from him. Maybe I will start collecting stamps after all."



In the second of this week's series on Battersea Dogs Home, a nurse treats new arrivals for fleas in the reception bay

Tom Pilston

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Loyalist myths

Sir: Recent reports from Northern Ireland suggest that some loyalists possess selective memories. If they are to be believed we must conclude that the only members of Ireland's population who gave their lives in the Battle of the Somme were members of the Protestant community. A little research would reveal that very many Catholics fought and were slaughtered beside them.

It probably escaped Ian Paisley's infant experience in Armagh, that, although membership of the Orange Lodge was exclusively Protestant, men from both communities were equally members of the British Legion. The enforced comradeship of the trenches was not completely forgotten in spite of the tribal divisions of their native land. The surviving Protestant men who returned from the carnage of the First World War retained a great respect for their Catholic comrades in arms.

The time for sectarian bravado has past. There is a new struggle to be fought side by side - that for peace, tolerance, and co-operation. The Gospel passage read in very many Christian communities on 12 July reminds us that Christ's difficult commandment is to love our neighbour as ourselves. The Rev ALEX MARTIN, Crediton, Devon

and that London and other large cities might be paralysed alongside Ulster. Do the bigots imagine that the Government and people can afford to let that happen? P.J. FEENEY, Bristol

Sir: The loyalist fanatics responsible for burning three children to death and hell-bent on wrecking Ulster's chance for peace claim to be "the Queen's most loyal subjects". Would the Queen please tell us all if this is indeed the way she expects her loyal subjects to act? JONATHAN WALLACE, KYRA WALLACE, Newcastle upon Tyne

Sir: I cannot decide which is the more repelling, the sight of Mr Paisley with his fist in the air shouting "No surrender", or the sight of Mr Paisley, head hung, regretting the consequences. The Rev NEIL DAWSON, London SW1

Sir: With whom are the Unionists of Ulster united and to whom are the loyalist community loyal? IAN HURDLEY, Ramsbottom, Lancashire

Suing doctors

Sir: Anthony Barton should be commended for raising the issue of the millions of pounds of public money consumed on legal aid in medical negligence cases (Law, 10 July).

As an expert witness who benefits from such a system but also as a doctor who recognises the needs of patients without funds to be able to sue, I believe it is fairly obvious that the conditional fee system for lawyers should be encouraged.

The soaring cost of medical negligence insurance for doctors and the increasingly litigious society make practice every day more difficult and expensive. Far too often doctors will settle a case rather than hear it out in court, simply on the basis of cost and embarrassment.

There probably are no perfect solutions but a conditional fee basis for lawyers should be the linchpin of a sensible, affordable policy. Dr ADRIAN ROGERS, Exeter

Sir: One of the consequences of increased medical litigation is that of defensive medicine. Tests and procedures are performed so that all angles are seen to be covered. This further raises patient expectation and thus the costs of delivery of medical care - probably more than the direct legal aid costs - without necessarily improving the quality of patient care. ANDREW FARKAS, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Sheffield

No politics, please

Sir: Whatever the merits of the arguments about the role of special advisers within government, your leading article of 11 July was confused about the nature of the Government Information and

Communication Service (GICS) and who heads it.

There are no political appointees in the GICS. We are all permanent civil servants, recruited by open competition under the Civil Service Commissioners' rules, and bound by the Civil Service Code. Last November the Prime Minister confirmed that the GICS should continue to be a politically impartial service, and subject to the long-standing conventions accepted by successive administrations.

Special advisers are not members of the GICS. Their contracts allow them to work within a party political context, and end when the administration ends. For many years, civil servants have worked alongside special advisers and ministers in the presentation of government policy, as they have in policy formulation. In all cases, the role of the Civil Service stops short of any party political activity.

The current Chief Press Secretary to the Prime Minister is not the head of the GICS. He is a special adviser. His role is to give the lead in ensuring that essential messages and themes underpinning the Government's strategy are sustained and co-ordinated, and to act as the Prime Minister's official spokesman.

As head of the GICS, I am responsible to the Cabinet Secretary for oversight of the service's professional standards, including recruitment and political impartiality. MIKE GRANATT, Director, Communications, Home Office, London SW1

Brothers in arms

Sir: The facts may indeed have been awful but a fair amount of truth was left out of your story "Awful truth behind Spielberg film" (11 July) touching on the loss of the USS *Juneau* on 13 November 1942.

Juneau was one of several badly damaged vessels withdrawing after the muddled night action known as the Battle of Guadalcanal in which US and Japanese task forces blasted each other at point-blank range, before staggering away in confusion to lick their wounds. While torpedo boats and landing craft moved in to rescue survivors in the battle area north of Guadalcanal, the crippled *Juneau* ran into a Japanese submarine south of the island and *Juneau* was sunk.

With half his remaining vessels badly damaged, the senior surviving officer would not risk another torpedoing and, having radioed a report which because of a communications foul-up was not received, maintained the withdrawal. That night, another powerful Japanese force swept through the area, on the way to pound US positions on Guadalcanal. Over the following days and nights, many American and Japanese ships went down in what would later be called Iron Bottom Sound and, in the ensuing chaos, *Juneau*'s survivors were tragically overlooked.

What might have fuelled the subsequent outrage was not reaction to the "cold cowardice" of the US

military, but that the populist press, who had made celebrities of the five Sullivan brothers when they joined up together, were horrified at the Navy's "carelessness" with their heroic creations. It was only in response to media and political PR pressure that the Navy posted all five brothers to the same vessel in the first place.

USS *The Sullivans* was a Fletcher class destroyer launched in 1943 and named to commemorate the brothers' sacrifice just five months after their deaths. SEAN WADDINGHAM, Tonbridge, Kent

In-flight vegetarians

Sir: Margaret Darmody (letter, 10 July) has my sympathy in her quest to get a better deal for vegetarians on airline flights. But it does get worse! I fly for an airline which has several vegetarian crew members, both cabin and flight crew.

If there is more than one vegetarian on the crew, then someone goes without, that is if there was a vegetarian meal in the first place. I am sure other airlines are the same. My situation is to take your own - the only sure way to make sure there is something other than cheese, biscuits and chocolate to eat on a long duty day. Captain PETER GLOVER, Gainsworth, Cheshire

IN BRIEF

Sir: Margaret Darmody's letter left me feeling very fortunate. Since my first vegetarian in-flight meal returning from Portugal in 1993, which had not been ordered and so consisted of several extra salad portions, I have enjoyed excellent vegetarian airline meals and, usually, been served them (and occasionally eaten them!) before my carnivorous husband has even sighted a meal trolley.

Airline food was once disgusting and "special requests" considered odd but in my experience it is not the case now. The last time I travelled abroad it was with my husband and toddler son. All three of us pre-ordered different meals - vegetarian, "normal" and child's. All three received the right meal at the same time from unfazed cabin crew. That they had never fitted a child's car seat into an airline seat before is another story... LOUISE CHADWICK, Cambridge

New smokers

Sir: Your report "Synod call to ban tobacco adverts" (8 July) made no comment on the part of the motion backed by the Church of England General Synod which "deplores... aggressive marketing of tobacco in the Third World".

It seems obvious that the only reason the share prices of all tobacco companies have not crashed is that the companies can easily replace lost sales and profits in the world's developing, and unregulated, markets. Diana, Princess of Wales, championed the campaign to ban the export of land mines. Where now are the champions to ban the export of tobacco, which will maim and kill

many millions more than land mines?

Currently, about 3.5 million die of smoking every year. By the 2025 this figure will have risen to 10 million. Hundreds of thousands will be still dying in Europe and the US but these will be dwarfed by the mortality numbers in China, India and Africa. PHILIP ISHERWOOD, London W7

Insect bites dog

Sir: You report that: "Mosquitoes love a hot man with aftershave" (6 July). I live in a place where there are plenty of mosquitoes, but cannot remember when I was last bitten by one. However, I often see mosquitoes, their abdomens turgid with blood, resting on the walls of my house. But the blood is not mine. For reasons of security, my dogs are allowed to sleep in my bedroom. Whatever mosquitoes happen to be about always make straight for them, but they seem not to feel it when they are being bitten. Perhaps they know they are immune to malaria and therefore do not care! What has become clear to me is that mosquitoes prefer the blood of dogs to the blood of humans. TOM HEATON, Nairobi, Kenya

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Sir: I approve of the long-overdue schemes to give good teaching the status and money it deserves ("Parents given say on superteachers, 11 July). But this week seems an odd time for inspectors to judge who should be the superteachers.

At this time, GCSE and A-Level candidates will already have left and the rest will be busy with sports days and outings. The inspectors may find it hard to discover many normal lessons going on. CATHERINE SARSON, Lymington, Hampshire

Sir: If the National Centre for Popular Music is to open in Sheffield (Architecture, 10 July) does this mean that one of our opera houses is to be renamed the National Centre for Unpopular Music? The Rev DAVID E FLAVELL, Liverpool

THE REVIEW DAY BY DAY

MONDAY REVIEW

As well as our regular columns, features and expanded comment pages, Network, our information technology section, moves to Monday.

TUESDAY REVIEW

An improved media section, with appointments, moves to Tuesday. Visual arts and more health pages are also Tuesday regulars

WEDNESDAY REVIEW

Fashion, midweek money pages, in addition to finance and secretarial sections (previously City+) will stay on Wednesday

THURSDAY REVIEW

Our education section will appear as a separate tabloid section. Improved and expanded film pages now move to Thursday

FRIDAY REVIEW

The architecture and science pages now move to Friday. In addition, we will have a new law section and our music pages

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A spending review comprehensive in name only

WELL, THEY have had 62 weeks of government so far, but if the hype is to be believed, you ain't seen nothing yet. When the Chancellor stands up at 3.30 this afternoon to announce the results of the Comprehensive Spending Review, he will end all the alibis that have served ministers for the past year. Facing any tough questions, their response has usually been, "Wait for the CSR." Today the waiting stops.

For most of the 1980s – and much of the 1990s – the words "Labour government" were thought to be code for reckless spending, increased taxes, public sector expansion and economic decline. The main political achievement of the Blair/Brown/Mandelson axis has been, first in opposition and then in government, to destroy that Pavlovian reaction.

Gordon Brown's niftiest stroke in opposition was to pledge that a Labour government would honour the Conservatives' public spending figures and rule out any increase in income tax. In government, he has appeared to relish the label "Iron Chancellor" and has belied any suspicions that New Labour was Old Labour in disguise – at least in economic terms. But there is still a fundamental question waiting to be answered, and the likelihood is that we will be only a little the wiser after today's statement. Does the government want to be a more sensible manager of the public finances – a revolutionary enough aim, if pursued to its logical ends – or does it want to alter not just the way money is spent but the very role and size of the state?

Certainly the government's first year shows a marked concern with efficiency, even if so far it has been only at the level of rhetoric. Most of its public spending announcements have carried the rider that they are dependent on efficiency gains – doubtless a theme which will be pursued this afternoon. The spirit of the third way, the government's much vaunted leitmotif, if it has any meaning, is that it is not the size of the state which matters but the purpose of the spending.

The Conservatives' crude "private right, public wrong" had its uses at the start, when the state was indeed over-mighty and needed to be reduced to let the private sector flourish. But it was always too basic a view. This government appears to view the current size as about right, and to be concentrating rather on delivering more bangs for the taxpayers' bucks – the so-called "Reinventing Government" agenda.

Privatisation, the talisman of the 1980s, has all but run its course. Apart from odds and ends like the Tote, Chan-



nel 4 and the Post Office there is not much left to sell off. We are all supply siders now, and sensible policy debate has moved on to making the state more efficient. More than that, the size of the state has now become a question of legitimate debate. National income stands at around £700 billion per year. Of that, the state spends 42 per cent – around £300 billion. The tax burden is about 37 per cent, which means that there is an annual deficit of around 5 per cent of GDP. So even to cover existing spending there is a need to borrow about £30-35 billion a year.

But despite its apparently all-embracing title, the Comprehensive Spending Review has been no such thing.

Rather than being an (admittedly valuable) exercise in reordering priorities, it should have looked at the big picture. How, for instance, can we deliver health care at the ever increasing levels demanded in an age of tax resistance? Any comprehensive review would have looked at the scope for private provision, either as top-up or replacement – and the same is true for education and welfare.

Sadly, these fundamental questions about the future of the state have not been asked, let alone answered. As a result, when the Chancellor sits down, bathed in the rapturous cheers of his 417 colleagues, he will be entitled to a smile, but his job will have barely begun.

Sorry, Japan – there is no alternative

AFTER MORE than two years in office, the first electoral test for the Japanese Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, had but one result – humiliation: his party won a mere 44 seats of the 126 contested seats in the upper house. The reasons for the Liberal Democrats' defeat are easy enough to fathom. Increasing unemployment, record bankruptcies and the attendant insecurity are the most obvious and classic reasons for the unpopularity of the government. Couple these with a general and long-lasting dissatisfaction with the political class and the result is hardly surprising. Goodbye Mr Hashimoto, whose actions demonstrate the most refreshing aspect of Japan's culture: when something goes wrong, the man at the top almost always falls on his sword.

What Japan needs above all – and has no prospect of getting – is its own version of Margaret Thatcher, who can grapple with the country's rigid employment laws, a culture of cronyism that makes New Labour look positively open, and a lumbering, backward-looking, protected industrial sector.

Any temptation towards *schadenfreude* at Japanese discomfit should be resisted. Yes, the Asian miracle may now be slightly less compelling a vision. But for all its difficulties, Japan is still the second largest economy in the world. Quite apart from the level of Japanese investment in the UK, if Japan gets a cold, the rest of the world also sneezes. It is in everyone's interest for the Japanese economy to prosper. But, more than that, the enfeebled state of Japanese politics is worrisome. Japanese politics is based on factionalism – cronyism in its most literal and direct form. For a long time this suited us. Without any real party-based strength, the Japanese polity was weak at its foundations. The West was reluctant to see Japan with the political muscle to match its ever-growing economic strength. But things have changed. The emergence of China, politically and economically, means that a balance is needed in Asia – which only an economically and politically strong Japan can provide.

Vanishing treasures

AS IF the last government had not gone far enough in returning the Stone of Scone to Scotland, along comes the gloriously titled Receiver of Wrecks to announce that Britain must hand the Castor Marbles over to Turkey. Whatever next? At this rate it looks as though England will soon be without any treasures. Never mind, at least we shall always have the Elgin Marbles.

The lesson my mum taught me – Labour and cronies go together

THE SCALES have been lifted from our eyes. Last Saturday week most of us went to bed believing that we were being governed by a rather dynamic and bossy collective of New Labourites, and awoke the next morning, to discover – courtesy of *The Observer* – that we were, in fact, in thrall to a Suhartan kleptocracy.

By last Sunday the normally temperate columnist Andrew Rawnsley was in danger of overheating. "This administration," he wrote, "is run by a tiny élite of chosen insiders. The voters don't count, except when they are summoned to focus groups so the manipulators can learn best how to gull them." In fact, of course, the voters might be forgiven for thinking that their views really matter too much to this Government.

Nevertheless there is a suggestion here that it was, once upon a time, different and better. In Sunny Jim Callaghan's day, or during the period that Harold was in No 10, or back when Clem walked the earth, there was a rough honesty, a willingness to canvass opinions, to brook contradiction.

Now it is bad form to dump on someone else's story. Any argument that there is less to so-called "cash for access" than has been claimed runs the risk of the accusation of professional jealousy. Well, that is tough, because – when the facts are closely examined – the scandal evaporates. If there is a smell, it is not the stench of putrefaction, but the unpleasant perfume of adolescents faring in the national bath.

The *Observer* itself is a little schizophrenic. Its "Cash for Access" website offers a heading with the unambiguous title "Labour secrets for

sale", while reminding us in the text that we should "remember: these conversations detail only what lobbyists claimed they could deliver; whether or not they really could is a different matter".

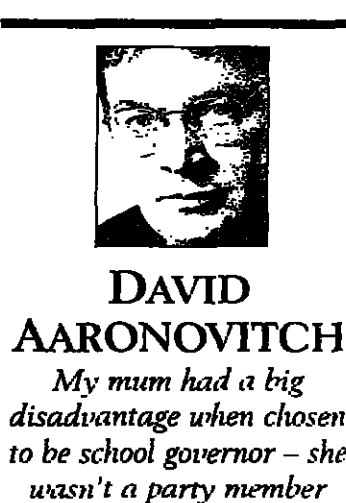
Sorry? What about those secrets that were definitely for sale?

The same pattern was exhibited last Sunday. A front-page story with five by-lines was headlined "Mandelson fixed Draper 'almost daily'", but paragraph eight allowed that "there was no suggestion that Mandelson or Wegg-Prosser leaked confidential information". So how come this was a front-page splash? Later on further "links" between Peter Mandelson and Draper's company GPC were listed. Number three was "Sir Ian Wigglesworth, chairman of GPC, lives next door to Mandelson". Oh really? Presumably they pass secrets to each other over the garden fence during Sunday afternoon lawn-mowing sessions. This is thin stuff.

The absence of any gun, let alone a smoking one, hasn't stopped *Observer* journalists writing about the story as though they were Woodward and Bernstein, digging into the heart of Nixonian darkness.

Recalling in detail the week's appearances on *Newsnight* and elsewhere, we come to the bit where *The Mirror* ran a misleading story that seemed damaging to *The Observer's* principal witness.

"Now, as *The Mirror* was being displayed, Laurence," wrote Ben Laurence, *The Observer's* business correspondent, "was able to read out two sentences... For once, Draper was lost for words."



DAVID AARONOVITCH

My mum had a big disadvantage when chosen to be school governor – she wasn't a party member

But what has occurred is not a crime, but a sin. Here, I am not just talking about boastfulness (it may be that Derek Draper and some of his friends wrongly believe that it is merely their brassiness that is unacceptable), but about what *The Observer* has genuinely revealed concerning the ethical poverty of some of those who, so very recently, were part of the Blair Revolution and on the reforming left.

The inside dope is that Draper and the young men from LLM (Lawson, Lucas, Mandelson) may have got into trouble because of their failure, rather than because of their success. Draper had disappointed his bosses in the amount of custom that he was able to attract. LLM was paying six-figure salaries to their principal employees, and well over the norm for youngsters

in their well-staffed offices. There was a large outstanding loan to be repaid in a year and business had been slack. If your pay bill is several hundred grand, it takes a lot of ten-grand commissions before you can be said to be solvent. Faced with this urgent need to attract new business, the young men became desperate and claimed that they could make the political earth move.

So we get the sad spectacle of a nice Labour chap like Ben Lucas boasting of how he helped Tesco save its car parks from government taxation. Was that what Ben went in to public life to achieve? A world safe for out-of-town mallsters? And is his anxiety to sell himself to potential customers a sign (as some journalists have argued) of his political commitment to the Blairist project, or – as I would argue – of his lack of any real political project at all.

"Socialism is what a Labour government does", was supposed to have been the catchphrase of Herbert Morrison, a supreme post-war machine politician, and grandfather to Peter Mandelson. As long as the government was doing good things, who cared what it was called? As long as the right people – us – were in power, all would be well.

And this was the mark of Old Labour: the politics of position. It was as much about securing the key places for your folk as it was about achieving anything. In Scotland, until recently, the constituencies were divided up between the Transport Union and the G.M. Councils have been run by caucuses which excluded outsiders. Only 20 years ago trade union bosses tossed the votes of mil-

lions of "members" into the hat to secure party conference deals.

If you were not in the party, you were nothing. In the mid-Sixties my mum was suggested by local education activists to serve as a governor of a local comprehensive. Conscientious and scrupulous, she had one big disadvantage – she was not a member of the Labour Party. In my own case, in 1981, half-way during my presidency of the National Union of Students, the Labour students decided to try to unseat me and install one of their own. So they fabricated some minor point of ideological difference and mobilised their party resources to achieve their aim. They failed narrowly, but the following year they did take over, and have held power ever since. They had no concept of something called "pluralism".

This is the idea that you get better politics and better government if you allow a number of opinions to be heard and represented. If you think about the contribution made to the Ulster peace process by David Ervine of the UDP and Monica McWilliam of the Women's Alliance, you get some idea of the benefits of pluralism.

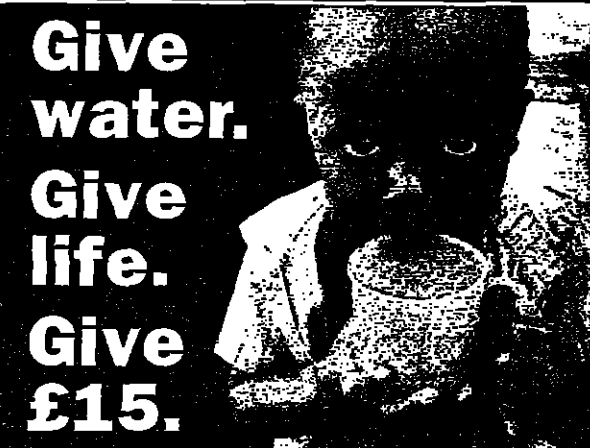
And at certain times I have become convinced that Tony Blair is a true pluralist. He co-opted Heseltine and Mellor on to government task forces, set up a cabinet committee with the Lib Dems, fought for devolution and may pave the way for electoral reform in Westminster. All of these measures could increase the range of people involved in governing Britain. Or they could be used to put hundreds of junior Drapers into position. So, Tony, who's right – Rawnsley or me?

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"When you sum it all up, it is all my responsibility."
Ryutaro Hashimoto,
former Japanese premier

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Die weltgeschichte ist das weltgericht."
(The world's history is the world's judgement.)
Friedrich von Schiller,
German playwright and poet



Every single day, 25,000 children die in developing countries because of dirty water. In the time it takes you to read this paragraph, another three vulnerable youngsters will have lost their lives.

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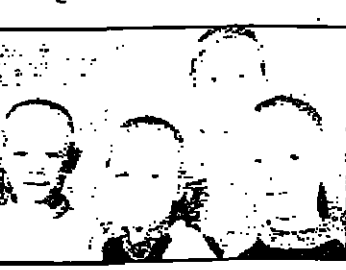
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"WHO CAN be held to blame for this, except ourselves, the generation which has never learned to live together, buried victim after victim of the Troubles, then got on with the job of trying to prove that one way or the other is best, that one side or the other is right. How dare we bring up another generation in this depraved manner. How can we condemn a younger generation, not yet capable of developing its own understanding, to a morass of bigotry, sectarianism and racial prejudice? How dare we make them pay the price for our failures? It has taken a tragedy beyond words to bring us to our senses, at least for today."
News Letter, Belfast

"WHAT HAPPENED in Ballymoney was not beyond prediction. With the unleashing of atavistic forces it was inevitable that someone was going to die. Many who would consider themselves to be upright and God-fearing contributed to the climate which took the lives of the Quinn children. Only the wilfully blind or the morally obtuse can exculpate themselves in these circumstances by declaring that one has no control over violent elements which align themselves with one's cause. Even the cruel deaths of three young children are not sufficient to persuade the Orangemen of Portadown to call a halt to the madness."
The Irish Times

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Irish press reaction to the Quinn brothers' murder



"WORDS CANNOT express the hurt, the pain and the anger many in this community feel about the deaths of the Quinn brothers. It is time for each of us to look into our own hearts and to ask if we have contributed to the hatred which stains this land of ours. Over this past week our society's priorities have been parades, points of principle, and political manoeuvrings. How shameful and tawdry those priorities now seem. In any Christian society the only absolute right is the right to life. That right has been shamefully abused this past week. Evil has stalked our country, and it has touched us each on the shoulder."
Irish News

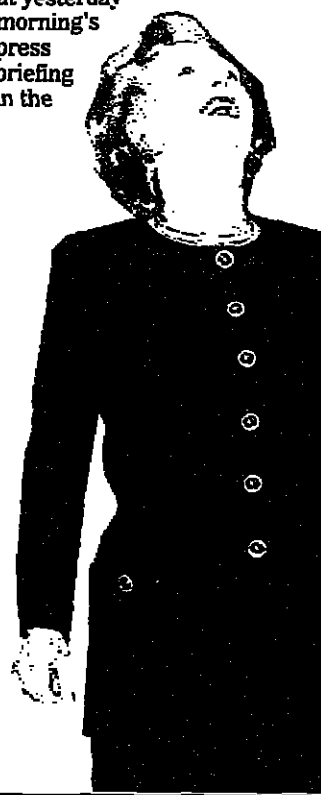
"WHEN MANY other Northern horrors are forgotten, the cries of the three innocent children murdered in Ballymoney will still ring in the ears of decent people, who stand appalled at the atrocity. Do they ring in the ears of those who set, if not the fire, the scene for the adding of three names to the ghastly litany of lawlessness and sectarian hatred? That scene was set by the Drumcree confrontation. All who have taken part in it are in some degree guilty. It sparked, as they knew it would, violent attacks on Catholics and on the security forces across Northern Ireland. To deny any responsibility is moral idiocy."
Irish Independent

PANDORA

IT'S PARTY time! Unfortunately, the political climate is mimicking this summer's abysmal weather. It seems that many end-of-term Westminster celebrations are likely to turn into wash-outs. The talk among Labour backbenchers yesterday was that the reshuffle was supposed to take place this week but has now been postponed. As evidence, backbenchers talked of a party for ministers at 10 Downing Street, supposedly scheduled for this week but now cancelled. The party, they say, was meant to be a balm for hurt feelings and frayed nerves: "to say goodbye to the departed and welcome the newcomers." Some hopeful backbenchers had been obsessively interested in the invitation list, for obvious reasons. But Drumcree and Lobbygate convinced the Prime Minister that this was not the week for a major shake-up – or a knees-up.

ANOTHER PARTY that seems destined to suffer is being held tomorrow by lobbying firm Connect, who have their offices in the Millbank Tower, above the Labour Party headquarters. Invitations to ministers, clients and journalists promised "sizzling BBQ with special guest chefs, beer tent, summer drinks, games, music and other attractions". A double-decker bus, dubbed the "Connect Shuttle", is due to bring guests directly from the House of Commons to Millbank Tower Gardens, the Labour Party's own backyard. In the present mood, with journalists posing as businessmen and the Government's links with lobbyists undergoing intense scrutiny, the bus might as well have darkened windows.

IT IS NOT all storm clouds, fortunately, and a ray of jolly sunshine pierced the gloom at yesterday morning's press briefing in the



Downing Street bunker. Patrick Hennessy of the *Evening Standard* began the meeting by crying "Sleeze! Sleeze!" and brandishing a brown envelope full of cash. This he handed to the mild-mannered Godric Smith, the deputy press secretary, as the big winner of £90 in the World Cup sweepstake organised by political hacks and Downing Street flacks.

TODAY WE bring you Ken Livingstone's policy statement, as given over the telephone last week to Julian Hall, secretary of the Anti-Rucksacks on the Tube Campaign. One of the most popular candidates for London's mayor, the former leader of the Greater London Council and the current MP for Brent East, Ken has always seemed a man who genuinely knows and loves London. But the rucksack issue seems to have found him out. This is what he told us: "I haven't heard of the problem. I've never seen an incident." Attempting to claw back some credibility, he continued, "The rucksacks used now aren't the same as the sort I went backpacking with in 1966. The ones now are much smaller."

When was the last time you took the Tube during peak hours, Ken? Not 1966? The rucksacks today may be slightly less cumbersome and "designer-fashioned", but they are just as gruesome when slammed into a fellow passenger's face or torso. This problem will not just go away, so get with it!

WE ARE pleased to report that, as the popular tide swells in favour of the Campaign, the first anti-rucksack joke has appeared. Performing in Bath this weekend, the television celebrity Noel Britten (he has filmed a pilot comedy show for Channel 5) spotted a young oaf wearing a rucksack and taunted him: "Very cautious sir, wearing a parachute at ground level." We are confident that these jokes can only get better.

AT THE end of the Dorchester launch party for the Malaysian Prime Minister's new book last week, Baroness Thatcher (left) was very much her old self – and her husband Dennis's soulmate. She proclaimed, "I'd like to propose a toast but I haven't got a glass. If I have to toast in champagne, I will, but I'd rather it was whisky." Few in the crowd were surprised when the lady got her way. At once.

Slobbering out beside the gene pool



TERENCE BLACKER

Is it time for the genetically inferior male to be enhanced like the tomato?

us wary of tribal leaders, it becomes clear why, quite suddenly, Ann Widdecombe seems cuddly and approachable while even the previously adorable Frank Dobson strikes us as sinister and shift.

But it's in the area of gender differences that the most exciting advances have occurred. Once it had been assumed that man's need to be in command of the TV remote con-

rol was a function of general male bossiness.

In fact, anthropologists reveal, removing this important item from a man's hand is, in a real sense, an act of castration. Such is his genetic need to dominate his bonding group with his sexuality, and his inability to "multitask", that he finds himself unable to differentiate between television and life. Dissatisfied or bored with his partner, he may want to point the remote at her and switch channels; irritated by children, he will absent-mindedly press the mute button in their direction.

More genetically evolved, women have less serious limitations. Having learnt, through basic socialisation skills, how to enjoy football, they understand the concept of overlapping wing-backs, Christmas tree formations and give-and-go. They may even attend matches, where they bounce up and down in their seats, clap their hands in front of their faces and scream when the opposition is about to score. So what could be in their DNA that blocks all understanding of the offside rule?

Simple, say the geneticists. Women are programmed by their bi-

ology towards potential, growth and possibility. The idea that life's ebb and flow, its forward movement and achievement of goals can be thwarted by a silly rule about defenders and a silly little man waving a flag in a typically self-important male way is simply rejected by their brain.

This brings us to a more complex area of research. No specialist has yet been able to establish why scientific findings invariably reveal men to be limited, hopeless creatures in thrall to an inferior caveman biology whereas women invariably emerge from tests as nicer, more intelligent, versatile and emotionally mature than their male counterparts. Behavioural scientists are still puzzled as to why, when young men drink large amounts of lager, belch, swear, sing and sexually harass strangers, they are throwbacks to a dark period of emotional deprivation and self-loathing whereas young women, doing the same sort of thing, are celebrated as exemplars of social liberation and high-spirited individuality.

Similarly, when women enter their thirties and begin to fret about

the great issues of the age – family or career, shopping as therapy, addiction to chocolate – they are widely perceived as honestly facing up to their own vulnerability. Best-sellers are written about them; kooky comedies explore their cute confused lives. The male pre-middle crisis, in contrast, is ghastly and in-temperate, revealing men either to be over-emotional Nick Hornby types snared in the traumas of their childhood or dysfunctional, under-emotional Hanif Kureishi types unable to hold down a relationship.

Researchers studying television schedules have been unable to understand why, in a documentary last year about an Australian male prostitute, middle-aged women paying for sex with a professional stud years younger were portrayed as healthily exploring their sexuality in an emotion-free, orgasmically efficient manner, while men behaving in a similar way would be regarded as loathsome and sad.

Is it time for the genetically inferior modern male to be enhanced like the tomato? The man from Monsanto, he say yes.

Road to hell: from a childhood in care to death on the streets



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

When I turn to Government policies for reducing homelessness, I find no Big Ideas

ONE ROAD to hell goes like this. A family cannot provide a child with a loving home, and so the young person is put into care at an early age. In the children's home, there is bullying and sexual abuse. Education is perfunctory and, in any case, by the age of 16 or soon afterwards the young adult is forced to leave the institution to make a life without preparation or family backup.

Having little learning and no skills, he or she drifts on to the streets, is tempted into crime, goes to prison, is scarcely touched by the rehabilitation services which are on offer, returns to the streets, sleeps in doorways or parks, or in sheds or stations, and hopes that the soup run will come soon. This is the route from family breakdown to rough sleeping.

The descent to the nether regions, however, is not yet complete. People rough sleeping have more illnesses than the average. And if you look at Coroners' Court records, you will find that rough sleepers are four times more likely to die from unnatural causes than the rest of the population and 35 times more likely to commit suicide. So this is the full journey – expelled from home at a young age, homeless in adulthood, death by suicide.

Every detail of this map comes from two government reports: "Rough Sleeping", an analysis by the Social Exclusion Unit with a foreword by the Prime Minister, published last week, and "People Like Us", a review of the safeguards for children living away from home, which was undertaken for the Department of Health last year by Sir William Utting.

Only occasionally, though, do the rest of us catch a glimpse of the hellish stages in such lives. Suddenly the newspapers are full of reports about the terrible conditions, the abuse and the cruelty often found in

children's homes. After each episode, the local authority promises to do much better in the future. We notice the rough sleepers, too, as we travel home in the evenings. And occasionally we read about unexplained suicides.

At every point along the dreadful way, however, voluntary bodies and charities do what they can. Out of the hundreds or maybe thousands of groups trying to bring about improvements, I will mention just three which I happen to have encountered recently.

In reaction to something I had written about prisons, I heard from the Prisoners' Education Trust, a small charity which makes grants for distance learning courses. The purpose is to help prisoners gain qualifications likely to increase their chances of finding employment on release. At the moment, the Trust operates in 35 prisons and plans to double that number by the year 2000.

Then a few days ago, I found myself at the opening of a refurbished building in Bethnal Green in the East

End of London which provides 31 single rooms for homeless street drinkers. This is a project, known as a "wet shelter", financed and managed by a local charity, Providence Row, founded 135 years ago by a young Catholic priest, Father Daniel Gilbert. The charity recognises that homeless heavy drinkers find it almost impossible to get any help at all; they are simply too disruptive for most homelessness agencies to handle. Edward Gibbons House, as the new building is called, is designed to maintain privacy and security of accommodation and provide high levels of nourishment and stability in the hope that these elements alone will be curative and give each resident fresh hope. Indeed, the charity says quite plainly that there is "no intention within the project of trying to reform the drinker".

The same day, I caught up with John Bird, the founder of The Big Issue. This publishing business remains one of the best contributions to reducing homelessness. Vendors of The Big Issue must be homeless or "vulnerably accommodated". Vendors buy the magazine for 40p and sell it to passers-by for 50p, thereby obtaining a job and an income, growing self-respect and a chance to get off the streets.

When I met him, Bird had just got back from Los Angeles where he is trying to establish the same mechanism for helping homeless people by publishing a West Coast version of the magazine. He showed me the latest issue. It is very LA. The cover story is entitled "The urban escape – dancing in the desert".

When I turn to government policies for reducing homelessness, I find a lot of activity but no Big Ideas. On the subject of children in care, Sir William recorded that the Department of Health alone had published 14 reports giving detailed advice in the last three years, and



Isaac is homeless, but how did he get there? Tom Pilston

he came to the conclusion that the number of regulations, statutory guidance, departmental circulars and letters, reports by inspectors and others is now so large that responsible managers have difficulty in comprehending it all. This is one reason why the instructions, recommendations and good intentions of central government are often disregarded.

Another part of the explanation is an excessively diffuse structure. In England alone, 132 separate social services departments run 836 children's homes. So here is a Big Idea. Take responsibility for children's homes away from local authorities, which have shown themselves unfit to run them, and create a national service for children in care. In this fashion, a substantial improvement in standards could be achieved – probably at lower cost.

The report by the Social Exclusion Unit is much bolder, and proposes that each city, including London, should have one person clearly in charge of all measures for

reducing sleeping rough to as near zero as possible. The notion of a tsar sleeping rough made the headlines. But I found another aspect of the report much more important. It provided an estimate of the proportion of rough sleepers who have been in care (between a quarter and a third) or in prison or remand centre (around a half).

Thus the Home Office will be asked to make preventing homelessness a key focus in monitoring the work of the Prison Service. That is jolly good. But does it go far enough?

I would prefer to see the rehabilitation of prisoners placed at the very centre of the work of the Prison Service and made an absolute priority, rather than something that is done with insufficient funds. Properly financed rehabilitation work would be a cost-effective way of preventing both reoffending and homelessness. Otherwise I fear that we shall learn once again the truth of the old proverb – "the road to hell is paved with good intentions".

THE INDEPENDENT

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So do I like being a female bishop?

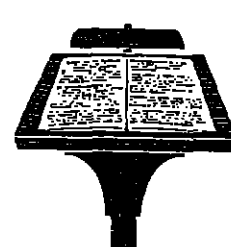
AS I speak to you, you are wondering when, how, and whether you will have women as bishops. I am aware of the responsibility that you have placed on me, and I have wondered whether it was foolish of me to accept it. For, you see, throughout the time that I have been a bishop, I have been aware of this process which I have called iconisation, where people think that they know who I am and they respond accordingly, and their response reveals far more about them than it does about me.

When I first began, a lot of people would ask me: "Do you like being a bishop? Are you happy?" and I would reply that that was not a question that I dared to ask myself, and that is still true. There are moments of real pleasure and there has been much genuine affection and affirmation. I have risked loving and have come to love the people that I live with, with whom I worship God and whom I serve. And if there is happiness, it is in the quiet sense of obedience to the will of God and in the trust that what God calls me to, will not destroy me. When I began, I

simply got on with doing the job – and there is a lot to do, a lot to care for and a lot to pray for. But I now realise more profoundly what is the inevitably prophetic dimension.

I believe that the best part of this church, the most forward-looking part of it, quite genuinely thinks that it wants women bishops. But you will not find in me a very powerful advocate of women as bishops; for I cannot recommend the job, and I cannot think that anyone would want to seek it. I think the same could be said about men, but uncertainty and lack of ambition do not as readily reveal themselves in men as they do in women. I do know, however, that many of you, and others, will want a woman to be a bishop. I know that the expectations will be very high and will be quite impossible to meet. I live a life characterised by mixed locations and obscure boundaries – of all sorts.

While there is plenty of adulation, I am also the target of projection and the agendas of other people. My identity as a woman often means that people have the expectation that I will be more malleable than



PODIUM

PENELOPE JAMIESON

From a lecture by the first woman bishop in the Anglican Church at King's College, London

they would have expected a man to be. If I am not, I am seen as being hard and demanding. Leadership that embraces the edge is very difficult and very vulnerable. It is necessary, in a way to reach over the heads of the inner circle of gatekeepers, while still treating them seriously and with respect. For me, this has meant challenging some of those who have been held in considerable respect.

It is the leader who advocates the marginal who must take the responsibility. All authentic Christian living is challenging and therefore inherently perilous; a Christian leader can become a focus, a bearer of that peril. The role of the bishop is consequently a very vulnerable one. I have been deeply hurt, punished even, for such leadership and I am not always sure that I have the courage to risk it again. In a subliminal way it is socially still easy to place a woman in a victim role and treat her accordingly. To victimise a bishop seems like a contradiction, but it is not. I am too ashamed of my church to give public voice to some of the tactics and sick projections that have been used.

The continually subtle, even underground power of patriarchy, whether exercised by men or by women, to destroy from a base of self-righteousness is truly appalling. Even if they do not know what they do, for to be vulnerable is to be wounded. It is to know what it is to be broken, to lose complete confidence in vocation and in the ability to even survive. It is to know dereliction and noth-

ing, total abandonment by God, and also to know that remaking might well not happen. It is to touch death. It is to keep going, somehow, in the haze of inner numbness, of total self-rendering struggling. It is to maintain the raw habit of communication and relationships, even in the face of such destructive abuse.

I must also make it very clear that these are feelings that are not unknown among my male colleagues. It is perhaps the gift of women in episcopacy that some of the often concealed downsides of power are revealed.

It is very evident, from Paul's writings to the Corinthians, that when Christian leadership is questioned, it is not possible for that leader to defend himself, or herself – for to defend is to attack those for whom one has responsibility before God.

None of us are really in the business of promoting women as bishops. Our first calling was to preach Christ crucified, but I would say that, in western societies, women through our social vulnerability are in a good position to do that.

Pain, panic and a land in torment

EVERY FEW years, just as the rest of the world is on the verge of nodding off altogether, Japanese politics produces a genuine surprise – a coup, an about turn or a scandal of world-class interest. In the Seventies it was the Lockheed scandal – the attempt by an American aircraft corporation to buy off a Japanese prime minister. In 1993, it was the defeat of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) for the first time in 38 years. The latest excitement came early yesterday morning, with a new electoral humiliation for the LDP and the resignation a few hours later of the Japanese Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto.

Elections to the upper house of the Japanese diet are usually rather a doze, to put it mildly – but, by any standards, these were remarkable results. Given the depth of Japan's economic problems, and the concern that they may spread to the rest of the world, these elections clearly mattered more than most. However, until the last minute, the outcome seemed to be predictable.

Turn-out, according to opinion polls, would be a record low, with six out of ten voters not even bothering to cast a ballot. Older, conservative types would make the effort; the young and angry would stay at home. Mr Hashimoto would not make any gains, and it might even be necessary to find a new PM in a few months' time. But no poll or pundit predicted the political massacre which was at hand.

Sixty per cent of Japanese people voted, the highest turn-out for a decade. Mr Hashimoto's party lost 17 of the 61 seats it had been defending, and in the cities of Tokyo and Osaka it returned not a single member. Propelled downwards by the Asian financial crisis, Mr Hashimoto has gone from being one of his country's most popular prime ministers to public humiliation, in the space of a year. After announcing his intention to quit yesterday afternoon, he looked as close to tears as is possible for a martial arts black-belt to look.

"Everyone has handed down their judgement," he said. "It's all my fault."

The result was a shock, and like previous shocks, it has created the urge to excitability and generalisation. Watch out for them in the next few days: the talk of a new era in Japanese politics, of a new breed of young Japanese who are standing up for reform; look out especially for profiles of Naoto Kan, the self-styled Tony Blair of Japan, whose Democratic Party profited from the LDP's loss. A sexy election result demands a sexy explanation, but Japanese politics – despite its occasional bursts of glamour – remains an unsexy business.

In time, even Mr Hashimoto's words of self-recrimination may look misplaced, for the fact is that Japanese politicians do not have the same degree of control over their government and need not be expected to bear the same degree of responsibility either. In the areas in



RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

No one could change Japan alone – Hashimoto was trapped in a system run by the old rules

which he has leeway, especially foreign policy, Mr Hashimoto has acted with focus and initiative. Despite choppy post-war relations with China, he became the first prime minister to visit Manchuria, the former Japanese colony where many of the Imperial Army's worst atrocities were perpetrated. He has repeatedly met Boris Yeltsin, and had set himself the goal of concluding a treaty with Russia by the year 2000. Rightly or wrongly, he has expanded the security treaty with the US so that Japanese troopships may one day exercise their considerable resources as more than mere extras in *Godzilla* films.

Domestically, he made one disastrous mistake: in raising Japan's VAT last year from 3 to 5 per cent, he scared Japan's formerly acquisitive consumers into locking up their money and leaving it there. Their reluctance to spend is at the bottom of Japan's recession. But plenty of economists, at home and abroad, considered it a good idea at the time and few forecast the harshness of the economic freeze that it would bring about. Where Mr Hashimoto has looked most incompetent – in his handling of the economic crisis – he also has an excuse: the stubborn intractability of the LDP and the doomed system of patronage into which it is locked.

After the end of the war, the American occupation presented Japan with what, on paper, is a fully formed, functioning democracy. In practice, Japan achieved its "miracle" by almost feudalistic means. The drafting of legislation and the running of the economy were left to the bureaucrats, particularly those in the powerful Ministry of Finance.

Politicians – and until 1993, the only politicians who mattered were members of the LDP – won elections by promising their constituents "souvenirs": big building projects, including bridges, roads and railways, which spread investment, jobs and the good life from Tokyo to the regions. The money dispensed in this fashion, in turn, trickled through the economy and into the post office accounts and banks which (under the careful watch of the Finance Ministry) dispensed cheap loans to almost anyone who needed it.



Japan's prime minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, is crushed by this weekend's election defeat. But Japan must change more than its leader

There were two problems. First, the corruption and favouritism in the system had a bad effect on those who benefited from it. Banks did not need to make shrewd judgements about the creditworthiness of their customers, nor did they need to come up with clever strategies for competing with one another. The pecking order was decided by the Finance Ministry. All they did was to keep doing as they were told in the knowledge that, if they ran into trouble, the Ministry would organise their rescue.

In the same way, politicians had no use for brilliant policy initiatives, stirring oratory and ideology. Their job was simply to keep on good terms with the construction companies in their constituency (who, in turn, helped to organise their election campaigns for them) and keep the money rolling out from Tokyo. The result was banks who

cannot lend wisely and politicians who cannot make policy. In 1992 the inevitable débâcle occurred.

The value of Japanese property (with which most of the loans had been guaranteed) collapsed. By this year, the situation had become critical. The total amount of bad loans is estimated at \$560bn. Plainly this could not go on: Japanese companies need to change fundamentally, and work off the anti-competitive flab that decades of protection had allowed them to build up. Clearly some of them, badly managed, and crippled by unrecoverable loans, were not going to survive. Deft political leadership was necessary. To decide who lives and who dies without creating a panic and a banking collapse.

But no one man could ever have done it alone. Mr Hashimoto found himself trapped in a system that still runs according to the old rules.

LDP politicians know that closing down inept banks will result in the bankruptcy of companies who depend on them for borrowing, among them the construction companies that succour and support them. The LDP finds itself torn between two irreconcilable urges: the urge to do the right thing (the restructuring and reform as demanded by the international community) and the urge to do the old, familiar thing. Either way, there will be pain – the pain of bankruptcies and unemployment, or the pain of long-term decline.

The optimistic view has it now that this election is the lesson that the government needed: having heard – from its own voters, not just from the US Treasury – that it must put its house in order, it will do so. But the humiliation has been symbolic only. A majority in the upper house matters about as much as control of the House of Lords in

this country. A general election need not take place for two years; if it came sooner, the Japanese electorate would probably pull its punches. The last time it punished the LDP in 1993, the opposition coalition that gained control broke up in a welter of in-fighting.

Change must come, but it will take place in the way it was beginning to happen under Mr Hashimoto – painfully, reluctantly and at the last minute.

Mr Hashimoto pushed through a big spending package, and he squeezed out a rescue package for the banks. His last act was to promise tax cuts. Eventually the effects of these measures will be felt, but only after several more panics and crises. For Japan's fundamental crisis is not one of bankrupt banks, or of consumers who will not consume, but of politicians who cannot lead.

RIGHT OF REPLY

GEORGE ROBERTSON



The Defence Secretary responds to criticisms of the Strategic Defence Review

MICHAEL CLARKE, the Leader page, and Menzies Campbell all argued last week that the Strategic Defence Review, no matter how "sensible and reformist" its conclusions, had not really been foreign-policy driven. This must not be allowed to gain credence.

The review's conclusions derived from a foreign policy analysis drawn up jointly by the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign Office. This is summarised in chapter two of the White Paper and the second supporting essay.

Nor is there anything secret or surprising about our foreign policy. Our objective is a secure and prosperous Britain in a world where democracy and liberal economics continue to spread. Among the factors we take into account are our position as a major European state and as a leading member of Nato, and the importance of international trade.

Our history gives us wider responsibilities. Britain stands for a strong world community in which we are willing and able to play a leading role.

Let me answer the point that we have somehow subordinated ourselves to the US. This is nonsense. Our security continues to depend on the partnership between Europe and North America.

But decisions on how we act militarily are taken here and nowhere else.

Similarly, the argument that we should have discussed the impact of our work on Nato's evolving Strategic Concept displays little understanding of Nato. We will feed the review's conclusions into the Nato process. I am confident that our allies will find much to agree with.

I am pleased the review is prompting discussion. I hope we can carry this forward on an acknowledgement that the review was indeed a genuinely foreign-policy-led process.

Adventures in the skin trade

THE START of Paradise, Toni Morrison's latest novel, announces: "They shoot the white girl first". The book explores the tensions between a group of women, and people from the neighbouring, all-black town. Not once is the reader told the identity of the sole white girl within the broader group. Initially, you are unsettled by not knowing. About half-way through, you realise that it does not matter. The women's personalities and decisions hold our interest. Possibly the most interesting thing about them (or about anybody, for that matter) is their skin colour.

Yet so much of the way we live and imagine has been shaped by our attitudes to colour and race. This obsession is primarily a Western one, with its roots deep in the past, even before the slave trade and the imperial adventure. When Europeans confronted African people, it seems that the imagination failed. Race and culture became conflated as the African individual disappeared beneath the mask of European superiority.

"Blackness" became a prime site of all that Europe was not. Africans were either to be pitied for not achieving "whiteness", or feared because they secretly harboured a dark and sinister impulse for revenge. The African image has thus oscillated between the faithful, pitiful Uncle Tom, and the pitiless, nihilistic bogeyman.

These two faces ironically mask Europe's own inability to look at herself and understand her own delusions. I always wondered why Joseph Conrad's Kurtz needed to journey up the Congo to find the heart of darkness. Had he travelled up the Rhine instead, his analysis might have helped to prevent an unprecedented mass murder in the heart of Europe, less than 50 years later.

Adam Lively's book traces the way these masks of blackness have been constructed in the literary imagination



TUESDAY BOOK

MASKS: BLACKNESS, RACE AND THE IMAGINATION
BY ADAM LIVELY, CHATTO & WINDUS, £20

by European authors. He also examines how black authors, such as Richard Wright, have absorbed many of the underlying premises behind these constructions. Meanwhile, other black writers, such as Nella Larsen and Jessie Redmon Fauset, who emerged during the "Harlem Renaissance" of the Twenties, attempted to separate these notions of race and identity through a body of "passing" literature – in which light-skinned black people pass for white.

The rifts Lively plays around the construction and deconstruction of blackness are familiar, but where he is strong is in his detailed reading of a number of key texts – including *Robinson Crusoe*, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* itself. Lively shows the narrative of race unfolding, not as a continuum, but, paradoxically, with liberals occasionally

providing some of the worst stereotypes. What emerges is the inability of some of the world's greatest writers to deal with the internal realities of black people.

A few, such as John Updike in *Robbit Reduz*, struggle valiantly to transcend the mask with the tools of trickery, signifying and jiving, which black people have used to outwit European constructions. But at critical moments, as Lively notes, Updike "wobbles badly". Although he is aware that when a white man sees a black man "he doesn't see a man, he sees a symbol", he still cannot move into the desires of his black characters. Nevertheless, this awareness of what needs to be done, and the various post-modern attempts to grapple with it in novels such as Bernard Malamud's *The Tenant*, are, for Lively, hopeful signs: "Blackness becomes a cultur-



Laurence Olivier as the Moor of Venice

Ronald Grant Archive

al style, a signifier that has floated free of its moorings in pigmentation".

That would be liberation of a kind. But the texts Lively does not discuss may hold better clues. There is no discussion of the novels of Alice Walker. Toni Morrison or Ishmael Reed. No mention of the play *Dutchman* by Leroi Jones (now Amiri Baraka), a searing meditation on the struggle to break out of the white construction. Finally, Lively does not discuss in detail perhaps the most powerful representation of blackness in the Western imagination: Shakespeare's *Othello*.

Othello is the brute made human by the tender love of Desdemona. He eventually achieves a state of grace by his suicide. But now the questions multiply for me. Who was this man? What was really going on inside his head? Why did he maintain no links with his people? The lesson of *Othello*, for me, is the danger of being caught up in the imagination of a white writer – even the greatest who ever lived.

In the end, one disagrees with Lively's conclusions. Post-modern games will not liberate the black image. The paradigm will shift when economics and power shift. Then, black people might eventually be allowed that really extraordinary thing they have hungered for for so long – to be seen as ordinary people, not as demons, saints and figments of the imagination. After all, the reason masks are so prominent in African art is that Africans long ago understood that the real mystery was not the terrifying surface, but the complicated person beneath. The mask merely hides a multitude of sins – and graces.

ONYEKACHI WAMBU

The reviewer is editor of *Empire* Windrush, 50 Years of Writing about Black Britain (Gollancz, £10.99)

TUESDAY POEM

MY SOJOURN IN ISTANBUL
BY IZET SARAJLIC, TRANSLATED BY CHARLES SIMIC

There are several versions
of my sojourn in Istanbul.

According to one,
It was a sojourn of suspicious political nature.

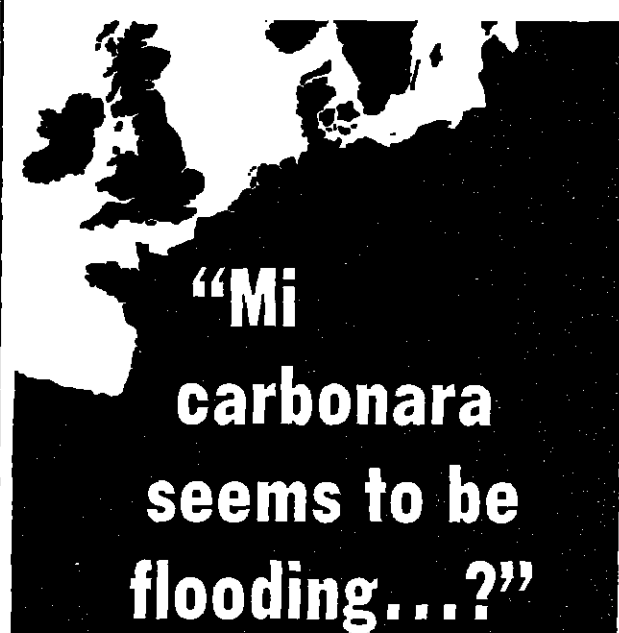
According to another one,

Our poems until Wednesday come from Chris Agee's anthology of contemporary poetry from Bosnia, *'Scar on the Stone'* (Bloodaxe, £9.95)

It had to do with one of my sentimental novels.

In the third version,
even the selling of drugs is mentioned.

The fact that I've never been to Istanbul
did not interest anyone, of course.



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Octav Botnar

OCTAV BOTNAR was one of the richest and most secretive men in British business with assets estimated at between £300m and £1bn, a fortune made while he was over retirement age, as the importer of Nissan cars. But in the early 1990s he fell out, first with the motor company, and then with the Inland Revenue. Indeed his last years were spent in Switzerland, sheltering from the Revenue's demands.

His life story was typical of the many adventurous Eastern Europeans, like Robert Maxwell, who survived the Second World War and the Soviet occupation of their native land to emerge as tough, but not overly law-abiding businessmen, their attitude towards the law – and the taxman – conditioned by their sufferings at the hands of successive authoritarian regimes. Like Maxwell he had a reputation as ruthless and something of a bully, but, unlike his fellow Balkan-born immigrant, Botnar was able to attract the loyalty of a number of able and long-serving executives.

Like Robert Maxwell he had a reputation as something of a bully, but, unlike him, Botnar was able to attract the loyalty of a number of able and long-serving executives

Botnar was born in 1913 in Bukovina, then within the Austro-Hungarian empire. Subsequently it was in Romania before becoming part of Western Ukraine. As a youth of 18, Botnar became attracted by Communism and was imprisoned by the Romanian authorities for three years for having organised a youth demonstration. He escaped to Paris, fought in the French army, and, after a spell in a German prisoner-of-war camp, fought with the French Resistance.

After returning to his native Rumania in 1946 he helped organise food supplies to cope with the post-war famine. Although he had left the Communist Party in 1947 he continued to work in the Ministry of For-

eign Trade until 1960, when he was arrested and tried as an enemy of the regime. Condemned to seven years' hard labour, he was released under a general amnesty in 1964 weighing a mere six stone after a spell in the notorious forced-labour barges of the Danube Delta.

He was allowed to emigrate to West Germany, where he started to work for NSU, a small German car manufacturer. In 1966 he came to Britain to reorganise their import subsidiary. When the agency was sold NSU was left with 2,000 rusting Datsuns, another franchise held by the NSU import company.

In 1971 Botnar's own company, Moorcrest, acquired the exclusive rights to sell Datsuns in Britain and over the next 20 years Datsun (later Nissan) UK became the most profitable car business in the country, with 5 per cent of the new car market and profits of up to £70m. He was helped by the fact that in the early 1970s Ford and British Leyland were eliminating their smaller dealers and these formed the basis for Datsun's sales network. The pressure he exerted on these dealers to increase sales fast and permanently made him unpopular with some of them, although the majority remained loyal to him when he clashed with Nissan in the early 1990s.

But his success was mainly due to the reputation for reliability of Nissan cars (the name was changed from Datsun in the early 1980s) and built up a market share of 5 per cent, enormous for a previously little-known Japanese manufacturer, especially as for most of the time sales were limited by an inter-governmental quota agreement. His success led to Nissan's decision to start assembling its cars in Britain, a decision for which Botnar tried to claim most of the credit.

He was a keen supporter of the Conservative Party. In the late 1980s he sponsored lunches organised by the Cities of London and Westminster Conservative Association at the Savoy to the tune of nearly £100,000 (earlier he had given £150,000 through a Channel Islands company). He was also listed as a major contributor to John Major's election campaign in 1992.

Botnar's problems had begun in 1991 when Nissan withdrew his franchise. They claimed that he had broken his agreement with them by transferring his majority stake in Nissan UK to the Union Bank of Switzerland. At much the same time his company was raided by the Inland Revenue which launched a claim for an unrepaid £239m in back tax, due because his company had hidden the profits they were making by inflating the prices they had paid for the



Botnar's company Datsun (later Nissan) UK became the most profitable car business in Britain. Nissan withdrew his franchise in 1991.

cars they imported. For over 15 years bogus invoices and sham shipping agents in Norway and the Netherlands were used to inflate the cost by as much as 50 per cent in a scam adding up to £219m.

The Revenue also claimed that the £173m in dividends from Nissan UK paid to the Botnar Foundation, a Lichtenstein-registered trust, were effectively the same as a payment to Botnar himself. Despite efforts by Lord Tebbit to mediate, two of the directors of Nissan UK were sent to jail, but Botnar himself escaped to Switzerland. He was deemed to be too ill to return and stand trial, and eventually reached settlement with the Revenue by a payment of £59m. But he continued

to fight back. Indeed, earlier this year, even though suffering from cancer, he announced that he was planning to sue the Revenue for damages and malicious prosecution based on his claim that the authorities had acted in collusion with Nissan.

But his rise to fortune (if not fame) and his subsequent problems with Nissan and the Revenue only represent one side of the Botnar story. On Christmas Eve 1972 his only daughter, Camelia, had been killed in a car crash at the age of 21. In 1974 he settled all his assets in Nissan UK in a charitable trust. A year later he founded the Nissan Day Centre for handicapped small children in Worthing, the town where Nissan UK was based, and three years later es-

tablished the Camelia Botnar foundation to help deprived young people. Over the years this has distributed over £60m to a wide variety of good causes.

Its biggest single donation was £8m given to the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children, an institution where he was widely respected, to build new pathology and research laboratories.

Nicholas Faith

Octav Botnar, businessman: born Bukovina, Austro-Hungarian Empire 21 October 1913; chairman, Datsun UK (later Nissan UK) 1970-91; married (one daughter deceased); died Villars sur Ollon, Switzerland 11 July 1998.

Professor Francis L. Carsten

IF GERMAN and Central European history is widely taught in Britain today, it is thanks to Francis L. Carsten, Masaryk Professor of Central European History at London University from 1961 to 1978, and his colleagues, who put it on the map.

Born in Berlin in 1911, he grew up in a prosperous Jewish upper-middle-class family. His father was a distinguished ophthalmologist with his own clinic; his mother came from the wealthy Born family which was in turn related to the Liebermanns and Lachmanns of Berlin. Politically active since his high-school days and rebelling against his bourgeois upbringing, Carsten became involved with radical left-wing student associations when he began his legal studies at Berlin and later Heidelberg.

As the Great Depression deepened and the Hitler movement expanded, Carsten's fight against the Nazis took priority over his struggle for the emancipation of the working class. He passed his Bar examination in early 1933 but Nazi policies quickly made it clear to him that there was little prospect of him ever being able to practise law.

With a friend he opened a bookstore on the fashionable Kurfürstendamm in Berlin but the Gestapo came a few weeks later to close it down under the pretext that Carsten was not a member of the Nazified publishers' guild. Just before the Nazi seizure of power he had joined the New Beginning group, of which Willy Brandt, the future leader of the Social Democrats and Chancellor of the Federal Republic, was also a member and which went underground in 1933. In 1935, Carsten was tipped off about his impending arrest, and fled to Holland.

During the next three years, he turned himself into a historian, publishing his first articles in Dutch professional journals, on early modern Prussian history. By the spring of 1939 he had begun to fear for his safety and looked towards Britain as a refuge. Wadham College, Oxford, accepted him to do postgraduate work and he eventually received his PhD with a prize-winning thesis on the manorial system in 17th-century Prussia. But just as in Berlin, he could not let go of politics and together with Tony Crosland, Roy Jenkins and others founded the Democratic Socialist Club.

However, once war had broken out, even a person with Carsten's anti-Nazi credentials was not spared internment. He was released after three months and, following a brief spell with Seton Dikmer's "black propaganda" outfit, was recruited to work in the Political Warfare Executive, writing sections of a handbook that was to guide the military authorities in post-surrender occupied Germany.

Having returned to civilian life at

the end of the war, Carsten gained a lectureship at Westfield College in London University, where he taught until his appointment, in 1961, to the Masaryk Chair at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, on the basis of two major books on early modern Central European history: *The Origins of Prussia* (1954) and *Princes and Parliament in Germany from the 15th to the 18th Century* (1959).

After this, his research interests moved into the 20th century. In 1964 he published an influential study of the German army in the Weimar Republic, followed by studies of Fascist movements in inter-war Europe, of the 1918-19 revolution in defeated Germany and Austria, of British and German radicalism during the First World War and of British perceptions of Weimar Germany.

His retirement did not slow down his remarkable scholarly output. In 1989 he published a history of the Prussian Junkers before turning in the 1990s to his own socialist roots. In 1991 his biography of the legendary August Bebel appeared, followed by a study of Eduard Bernstein, the key figure of Social Democratic reformism. His last book-length study came out in 1996: *The German Workers and the Nazis*, a work which tries to assess how far and why the German working class made their peace with Hitler. Given his own anti-Nazi activism in the early 1930s, it was probably his most difficult scholarly assignment. He also missed his wife Ruth, a fellow historian, vigorous critic and invisible collaborator on all his earlier projects, who had died in 1995.

Francis Carsten was also a teacher and mentor of doctoral students, many of whom now teach at major universities around the world. When Carsten's head of department at Westfield suggested he should more usefully teach the Tudors than modern German history, he took on the extra load and offered courses in both. He was among the founders of the German Historical Institute in London which has promoted close co-operation between historians in Britain and the Federal Republic.

It is only now that we can see more clearly how important has been his contribution to the vitality of research and teaching.

V.R. Berghahn

Francis Ludwig Carsten, historian: born Berlin 25 June 1911; Lecturer in History, Westfield College, London University 1947-60; Reader in Modern History 1960-61; Masaryk Professor of Central European History 1961-78 (*Emeritus*); Co-editor, Slavonic and East European Review 1966-84; FBA 1971; married 1945 Ruth Moses (died 1995; two sons, one daughter); died London 23 June 1998.

Sharif Hussein bin Ali

SHARIF HUSSEIN bin Ali was the brother-in-law of the former Crown Prince of Iraq, Abd al-Jah, and the uncle by marriage of Faisal II who ruled Iraq until it became a republic following the massacre of almost the entire royal family in 1958.

Forced into exile, Sharif Hussein moved between Switzerland, Italy and England until 1961, when he settled with his family in Beirut. Twelve years later, because of the Lebanese civil war, he returned to live in London. Here, as the situation in Iraq grew ever more critical, he became a leading figure among the many Iraqis whose hope is to establish a democratic government with a constitutional monarchy.

In 1992 he was asked to head a newly formed official royalist movement. After he declined this invitation it was accepted by one of his sons, Sharif Ali bin Hussein, the movement's present leader and claimant to the Iraqi throne. Notwithstanding, Sharif Hussein continued to monitor political development, using his position to assist efforts to solve Iraq's grave problems.

Visits to Sharif Hussein's London home were of extraordinary interest to anyone with a sense of history. The walls of his impressive drawing-room were hung with nostalgic portraits of his sister-in-law, the beautiful Queen Aliya (sister of the Crown Prince), and of her son, King Faisal. Tables and shelves were crowded with rare photographs of his forebears. But most interesting of all was Sharif Hussein himself, a *grand seigneur* of the old school – tall and handsome to the end, perfectly mannered, elegantly dressed, hospitable, discreetly pious and also an intelligent man with a fine memory and keen understanding of Middle Eastern issues.

Sharif Hussein was a cousin once removed of his famous namesake

who, as Grand Sharif of Mecca, raised the Arab Revolt in the First World War. Thus he was also related by birth to the Jordanian royal family and to the Iraqi dynasty into which he married. He was, in short, a true "Hashemite" – a term referring vaguely to the descendants of Hashem through his great-grandson, the Prophet Muhammad (died 632AD).

Revered throughout the Islamic world, Sharif Hussein's Hashemite ancestors ruled Mecca and Medina

'If even a single hair is touched on the head of Sharif Hussein or of his wife and children it will cost you your whole head'

continuously for over six centuries until 1926 when those cities and indeed Islam's entire holy land, the Hijaz, was invaded by Ibn Saud (later King Abdul Aziz, the father of the present Saudi Arabian monarch), who incorporated the area into the nascent Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It was to ease Britain's problems in Mesopotamia (Iraq) and Greater Syria that the British government allowed Hashemite monarchies to emerge in Iraq and Jordan from the wreckage of the Allies' broken promises in the First World War.

Looking at Sharif Hussein, it was hard to believe that his father was the Sharif of Mecca as long ago as 1905; and one could believe it only by remembering that he looked

much younger than his age and that the Young Turks deposed his father nine years before Sharif Hussein entered this world.

Given Sharif Hussein's exalted background, it was not surprising he expected high standards and complete co-operation from those around him yet at the same time he also belonged in the modern world, his sense of humour and lack of bigotry probably deriving from his upbringing and education in Cairo during its heyday as a great cosmopolitan city and royal capital. In those early years Sharif Hussein combined a life of privilege and pleasure with the task of administering with his brother the family's cotton plantation at Zagazig in the Nile Delta; and it was not until 1920 that he moved to Baghdad following his marriage to Faisal II's favourite aunt Princess Badia, daughter of King Ali of the Hijaz.

Sharif Hussein participated in Iraq's political life on only two occasions when he sat on the *hayat al-nijaba* (Regency Council) during the absence of the King and the Crown Prince. But, behind the scenes, he occupied a central position. Faisal II had become King at the age of four years following the premature death of his father, King Ghazi, in 1939. However, it was not until 1953 that he attained his majority. Though he was now theoretically his own master, he continued to rely on his uncle, the Crown Prince.

At the same time, Sharif Hussein also assisted the King in the role of a friend and confidant. Sharing an interest in fast motor cars, photography and hunting, they went on many expeditions to the southern marshlands and other parts of Iraq. There were also visits to Europe during some of which Sharif Hussein assisted the royal family's search for a royal bride.

Living at the very centre of power



Sharif Hussein (seated with sunglasses) with King Faisal II of Iraq (seated without) on a desert picnic

Sharif Hussein saw with extraordinary clarity the virtues and the shortcomings of the Iraqi leadership and bitterly regretted that he was unable to intervene and try to arrest the processes that culminated in the appalling climax of 14 July 1958.

It was from his upstairs window at dawn that Sharif Hussein noticed a column of army trucks moving towards the palace. Minutes later came a telephone call from King Faisal offering to send a detachment

of the Royal Guard to protect his family. Events soon showed that the King was already powerless. Within hours all but one of his immediate family lay dead in the palace forecourt.

Sharif Hussein and his wife and children escaped thanks to the fact that they resided in a separate house nearby. After intense heat and shortage of water forced them to abandon an attempt to escape by car across the desert they returned to

Baghdad and hid in the house of a friendly electrical contractor. Next day they gained a sanctuary in the residence of the Saudi Arabian ambassador.

Recalling this adventure, Sharif Hussein often quoted King Saud's exact words at the time: "If even a single hair is touched on the head of Sharif Hussein or of his wife and children it will cost you your whole head." Thus it was that, despite the historic rift between the Hashemites

and the Al Saud dynasty, a bridge was constructed between the Saudi monarchy and Sharif Hussein.

In later years he frequently visited Saudi Arabia, where he retained important contacts and valuable properties.

Alan Rush

Hussein bin Ali: born Cairo 30 September 1918; married 1950 Princess Badia (three sons); died London 1 July 1998.

Rowland Eustace

ROWLAND EUSTACE was, in the words of Professor Sheldon Rothblatt of the University of California, Berkeley, "an original". He was absurdly modest about his accomplishments and over-sensitive about what he saw as his privileged background. Both characteristics infuriated his close friends and puzzled everyone else.

He was born in 1924; his father had been in business in Calcutta; his mother was the daughter of General Sir Edward May. The Empire, or perhaps what needed to succeed it, was in his bloodstream from both sides of the family. At Eton he was Editor of *The Chronicle* and regarded as politically left of centre, a perception which denied him membership of "Pop". It was in character that, as soon as he was 18, he enlisted as a rifleman in what was regarded as the "family" regiment, the 60th Rifles, to the embarrassment of highly ranked military relatives. He distinguished himself in the Normandy invasion and was later commissioned into the Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey). Demobbed in September 1947, he entered Magdalen College, Oxford, to read PPE. At Oxford he met Barbara Belloc, a granddaughter of the writer Hilaire Belloc, and they married as soon as he graduated.

Also on graduation he took the then unusual step of becoming a university administrator, joining the Oxford Registry under the distinguished Registrarship of Sir Douglas Veale. Veale was interested in higher education in the colonies and it was through his agency that Eustace moved three years later to the Senate House, London University, to be secretary to the university committee responsible for the special relationship between London and university colleges in the colonies. Eustace's experience and interests made him an ideal appointment.

In 1955 he served as secretary to the Working Party on Higher Education in East Africa chaired by Sir Alexander Carr-Saunders, and the Working Party's report led to the creation of the University of East Africa with constituent colleges in each of the three territories, Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika. In 1962 Eustace was selected to implement a major element of the Report as Registrar of University College, Nairobi, the only one of the three colleges to be located on an inner-city site and to be given a remit to specialise in technology.

Eustace was the unsung hero of the early days of what is now the University of Nairobi: he laid the foundations of good administration, he Africanised the staff, he managed a long interreg-

num between a white and a non-white principal and he presided over a large building programme. But it was never easy; in post-colonial Kenya liberals like Eustace were distrusted by the whites, and white liberals were misinterpreted by Africans. True to character Eustace declared himself redundant in 1966 two years before his contract was due to end on the grounds that a Kenyan with the ability to succeed him had been identified.

On his leaving Kenya his interests shifted to research. After a year working with Professor Jim Sheffield in Ottawa, he joined Professor Graeme Moodie at the then very new York University as a Gulbenkian Fellow to undertake research on university gov-

Celebrated in Nairobi as the man who captured a runaway ostrich in the city centre by looping a rope round its legs and sitting on its head, his style was equally individualistic as an administrator and as a scholar

ernance, a live issue at a time of general student dissent. Their book *Power and Authority in British Universities* (1974) still stands as the landmark study of the evolution of the legal, political and managerial structures of universities in the post-war years.

After a brief period as Secretary to the Centre for Environmental Studies, a government think-tank abolished by the Thatcher government immediately it came to power, Eustace became Administrator and later Director of the Society for Research in Higher Education. When he joined it SREE was a small, rather inward-looking learned society; when he retired in 1992 it had grown to be an influential player in the



development of research and policy in higher education.

From the early 1980s until his death he published extensively in the areas of university governance, university autonomy and relations with the state, and academic freedom, and he was widely sought after as a reviewer. Celebrated in Nairobi as the man who captured a runaway ostrich in the city centre by looping a rope round its legs and, when it fell over, sitting on its head, his style was equally individualistic both as an administrator and as a scholar. Exceptionally learned in the history of higher education in the 19th century, he was researching the so-called "Cambridge principle" at the time of his death, the apparently esoteric question of the his-

torical origins of the separation of the teaching and examining function of universities, a topic which, however, has much modern relevance.

Rowland Eustace was a generous, entertaining, disarmingly honest and deeply scholarly man who commanded the affection of an extraordinarily disparate group of people both within and outside higher education. He was a unique voice in the higher education research community.

Michael Shattock

Rowland Barrington Eustace, university administrator: born Weybridge, Surrey 3 September 1924; married 1950 Barbara Belloc (one son, four daughters); died London 26 June 1998.

HISTORICAL NOTES

ALLAN B. HO AND DMITRY FEOFANOV

The struggle for Shostakovich's soul

SINCE ITS publication in 1979, *Testimony*, the memoirs of Dmitry Shostakovich, has been embroiled in controversy. Initially praised in the West for its insights into Shostakovich's life and works, it was simultaneously denounced by the Soviets as a forgery, largely because it revealed the composer as nothing less than the moral beacon of a suppressed people.

Western opinion followed suit after the publication in 1980 of a review by Laurel E. Fay, which was said "conclusively" to demonstrate that *Testimony* was not what it purported to be. Fay gained the support of Richard Taruskin and Malcolm H. Brown, and for nearly two decades "the case was closed". Indeed, in 1989, Taruskin wrote: "... as any proper scholar could plainly see, the book (*Testimony*) was a fraud".

Even after the fall of the Soviet regime and consequent flood of new evidence, the critics of *Testimony* and its editor, Solomon Volkov, have been loath to re-evaluate their views. In 1994, Brown, informed that many figures who had known Shostakovich had begun endorsing *Testimony*, responded: "It doesn't really matter how many ex-Soviets [including, we now know, both of the composer's children] believe that *Testimony* is 'essentially accurate'." Similarly, Fay, when asked at a 1995 meeting of the American Musicological Society if she had contacted the composer's friends and family while researching her own book, explained: no, "I didn't want to become compromised by having them tell me their stories and being obliged somehow to retell them".

Numerous concrete examples have recently come to light which demonstrate how the case against *Testimony* is based on subjective editing of the facts, deceptive paraphrasing, lack of perspective, and the like. And this must change our perspective of the protagonists in the drama. For nearly 20 years Volkov - who first revealed to the world "the tragic horror of a trapped genius" (Yehudi Menuhin) - has been vilified as the purveyor of forged goods. This has now been proved to be an utter fallacy.

Shostakovich too has been misunderstood in the West. He knew of this, and intended his posthumously published memoirs to set the record straight. It was a terrible injustice to his memory when, based on the dubious research of an American



Shostakovich: still misunderstood

musicologist, his memoirs were dismissed as a forgery and "second-hand scuttlebutt". He is still misunderstood - even in 1994, Taruskin was still describing him as "perhaps Soviet Russia's most loyal musical son", prompting Vladimir Ashkenazy, in his "Overture" to *Shostakovich Reconsidered*, to express shock and dismay that the composer's old "official" image is still being perpetuated by "Soviet stooges in the West". In fact, Shostakovich was never Soviet Russia's most loyal musical son. His memoirs, other documentary evidence, and the testimonies of his friends and family establish this beyond doubt.

It is beyond dispute now that Shostakovich's music belongs among the highest achievements of the 20th century. In *Testimony*, he left us an invaluable guide to his mind and to the meaning of his music. No listener can fully appreciate the "mordant irony, sarcasm, and hollow laughter" (Hugh Canning) of his works without consulting it.

The struggle over *Testimony* is the struggle over Shostakovich's soul. Looking back over the past years we see a changed world. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the ideological war against Communism is, in essence, won. Yet we still are faced with the scourge of weapons of mass destruction, in the hands of various madmen. Shostakovich's message - that humanity becomes poorer even with a single death - is just as timely today.

Allan B. Ho and Dmitry Feofanov are co-authors of *Shostakovich Reconsidered* (Toccata Press, £45)

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

KEANE: Ann Marie, passed away peacefully at Charing Cross Hospital on 8 July 1998. The funeral will take place on Wednesday 15 July at Mortlake Crematorium at 11am.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh give a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, and Patron, Outward Bound Trust, attends a banquet at Guildhall, London EC2. The Princess Royal, President, Missions to Seamen, attends a World Conference at the Hayes, Swanswick, Dorsetshire; attends a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace; and as Chancellor, London University, attends the Benham 250 Concert at the Bloomsbury Theatre, London WC1.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; Nijmegen Company Grenadier Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Irish Guards.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries. In memoriam) are charged at 16.50 a line (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

The Earl of Arran, former Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard, 60; Miss Polly Bergen, actress, singer and cosmetics executive, 68; Mr Ingmar Bergman, filmmaker, 80; Sir Alan Cockshaw, chairman, Amec, 61; Miss Vera Di Palma, accountant, 67; Air Chief Marshal Sir David Evans, Bath King of Arms, 74; Mr Gerald Ford, former US president, 85; Mr Michael Hardie, former High Commissioner to the Gambia, 60; Sir David Hardy, chairman, MGM Assurance, 68; Mr Ilyd Harrington, former leader of the GLC, 67; Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrick Hine, Military Adviser to British Aerospace, 66; Lord Hughes of Woodside, former MP, 47; Miss Sue Lawley, television presenter, 52; Maj-Gen Cosmo Nevill, 91; Mr Bruce Oldfield, fashion designer, 48; Mr James Otis Purdy, novelist, 75; Lord Rees-Mogg, chairman and proprietor, Pickering & Chatto, 70; Mr John Selater, President, Equitable Life Assurance Society, 58; The Right Rev James Smith, Bishop of Bradford, 63; Sir Richard Trehan, former chairman, Milk Marketing Board, 85; Mr Anthony Waterlow, chairman and managing director, Kodak, 60.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Cardinal Jules Mazarin (Giulio Mazarini), statesman, 1602; Jakob Steiner (Steiner), violin-maker, 1821; John Gibson Lockhart, editor, novelist and critic, 1794; John Henry Anderson, stage magician, 1814; Jervis McEntee, landscape painter, 1828; James Abbott McNeill Whistler, painter and writer, 1834; Emmeline Pankhurst, social reformer and suffragist, 1858; Gustav Klimt, art nouveau painter, 1862; Paul Walden, chemist, 1863; Gertrude Margaret Lowthian

Bell, traveller and archaeologist, 1868; Gerald Finzi, composer, 1901; Woody Guthrie, folk singer, 1912. Deaths: Philip II Augustus, King of France, 1223; Pelham Humfrey, composer, 1674; Francisco Antonio Gabriel Miranda, Venezuelan nationalist leader, 1816; Madame de Staël (Anne-Louise Germaine Necker), Baronne de Staël, writer, 1817; Augustin-Jean Fresnel, physicist, 1827; Edward Calvert, artist and wood-engraver, 1883; Alfred Krupp, industrialist, 1887; Stephanus Johannes Paulus Kruger, Boer leader, 1904; Sir William Henry Perkin, chemist and inventor of aniline dyes, 1907; Sir Apirana Turupa Ngata, Maori leader, 1950; Jacinto Benavente y Martinez, playwright and poet, 1954; Faisal II, King of Iraq, assassinated 1958; Greville (Greville) Wetchell, clown, 1959; Konstantin Georgiyevich Paustovsky, writer and journalist, 1968. On this day: the Grand Council of Nimes ended, 1096; during the French Revolution, the Bastille in Paris was stormed, 1789; the Oxford Movement was launched after a sermon by John Keble, 1833; the Battle of Waitzen, between Russians and Hungarians, started, 1849; Commodore Perry of the United States was received in Yokohama by the Lord of Toda, 1853; the first ascent of the Matterhorn was made by Edward Whymper, 1865; dynamite was first demonstrated by Alfred Nobel, 1867; the Cunard steamship *Etruria* reached Queenstown (Cobh), Ireland after sailing from New York in six days, four hours and 50 minutes, 1888; the first BBC television play, *The Man With a Flower in His Mouth*, was transmitted, 1930; a Bill was passed in the House of Commons to legalise abortion in the United Kingdom, 1967. Today is Bastille Day (Fête Nationale) in France and the Feast Day of St Camillus de Lellis, St Deus-

dedit of Canterbury, St Marcellinus or Marchelm, St Ulric of Zell.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Marion Carlisle, "Music (II): Poussin: *The Triumph of Pan*", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Imogen Stewart, "English Quilted Design in the 18th Century". British Museum: Brian Durran, "BP Ethnography Showcase: Miao costumes from China", 11.30am. National Portrait Gallery: Alfred Bradley and Susan Morris, "Wilkie Collins", 1.10pm. Institute of Child Health, Guilford St, London WC1: Dr Bethan Lang, "Dancing Eyes Syndrome: an autoimmune disease?", 4pm.

DINNERS

Institute of Management Services: Lord Chilver of Cranfield, President of the Institute of Management Services, presided at the institute's gala dinner held yesterday evening at Christ's College, Cambridge, to mark the 35th anniversary of the Institute's Summer School. Mr John O'Brien was the speaker. Among the guests were: Viscount Thurso, MS Patrice; Mr Peter Cowell, Mayor of Cambridge; and Mrs Cowell; Mr Anthony Parry, OMS Chairman; and Mrs Parry; Brigadier Paul Symes, OMS Director-General; Mr Stephen Daniels, Summer School Chairman.

CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments have been announced by the Church of England:

The Rev Nick Ash, Team Vicar, Carlisle, Cumbria, and a Diocesan Director of Ordinands (Carlisle); to be Priest-in-Charge, Dalton, and Raughton Head with Galesgill, and Wray, continuing as a Diocesan Director of Ordinands (same diocese). The Rev Philip Aiden, Priest-in-Charge, Fetherby with Darrington and Hazy

bourne (Gloucester); to be also part-time Millennium Officer (same diocese). Canon Michael Austin, formerly Archdeacon, Adviser for Bishops' Ministry; has been appointed Canon Emeritus of Southwell Minister (Southwell). The Rev Graham Apple, Curate, Theford (Norwich); has been appointed to work with Intercare in Monks. The Rev Frances Batten, recently NSM, Inhabitant with Coddhill and Kingston Downham (Worcester); to be Chaplain, FMP Brookhill (same diocese). The Rev Richard Bryant, NSM Assistant Curate, The Sandringham (Gloucester); to be NSM, Gloucester St George with Whodden (same diocese).

The Rev Christopher Gale, Vicar, Sherwood (Southwell); to be Priest-in-Charge, Bulwell St Mary the Virgin and All Souls (same diocese). The Rev Brian Hayes, Vicar, Gazeley with Dullum, Moulton and Keston (SA Edmundsbury and Ipswich); to be also Priest-in-Charge, Highgate Green (same diocese). The Rev Simon Hill, Curate, Monks (Gloucester); to be Team Vicar, Dorchester (Oxford). Canon Derek Jackson, Vicar, Windermer (SA Mary Applethorpe and Troutbeck (Carlisle); to be also Rural Dean of Windermere (same diocese).

Canon Richard Kirtus, Lecturer and Tutor, Wilton College of Emmanuel, Sheffield (CA); to be Priest-in-Charge, Olveston with Haddon (Southwell). The Rev Jo Leveridge, NSM Curate, Gillingham (Oxford); to be Curate, Earley St Peter (same diocese).

The Rev Mark Howarth, Curate, Buckingham (Oxford); has been appointed Curate, High Wycombe with special responsibility for Downley St James the Great (same diocese). The Rev Paul Nelson, Vicar, Sandridge (SA Sharncliffe); to be Rector, The Hundred (Benedictine St Edmundsbury and Ipswich). The Rev Robb Patterson, Vicar, Leeds All Souls (Bishop); to be Vicar, Middleton St Mary the Virgin (same diocese).

The Rev Alan Pike, Rector, Creeting St Mary, Creeting St Peter and Earl Stonham with Stonham Parva (SA Edmundsbury and Ipswich); to be Curate (to be known as Senior Assistant Priest), Pibg, Thirbury, Maudby, Stokenay, Rungum with Burgh with Billorey (Norwich). The Rev William Thunberg, Priest-in-Charge, Balderton (Southwell); to be also Priest-in-Charge, Coddington with Bantley in the Willow (same diocese). The Rev Alan Townsend, Assistant Curate, Twidale (Lichfield); to be Priest-in-Charge, Salley St Saviour and Shaw Hill, Alton Rock (Huntingham).

The Rev John Wall Curate, Brighton St Peter with Chapel Royal (Chichester); to be Team Vicar, Newbury West, Common with special responsibility for St George (Oxford).

APPOINTMENTS

Mr Timothy Nigel Jenkins and Mr Andrew David Thomas, to be district judges, on the South Eastern Circuit.

Newspaper cannot plead qualified privilege

QUALIFIED PRIVILEGE would not protect publication to the public at large of defamatory words about an elected politician relating to his conduct in his public role unless the nature, status and source of the material, and the circumstances of the publication, were such that the publication should, in the absence of express malice, be protected in the public interest.

The Court of Appeal, ordering a new trial of Albert Reynolds's libel action against Times Newspapers Ltd and others, ruled that the defendants were not entitled to rely on the defence of qualified privilege in the re-trial.

The plaintiff had been a member of the Dail Eireann since 1977, and in February 1992 became Taoiseach, heading a coalition of his Fianna Fail party and Labour, under Dick Spring.

The coalition ended in November 1994 as a result of a political crisis caused by the handling of a request to extradite a Roman Catholic priest from Eire to Northern Ireland to answer charges of sexual abuse of children. On 17 November the plaintiff resigned as Taoiseach.

On 20 November 1994 the *Sunday Times* published an article in its British mainland edition about the plaintiff's resignation. The plaintiff issued a summons alleging libel, claiming that the words complained of in the article meant and were understood to mean that he had deliberately and dishonestly misled the Dail and his cabinet colleagues by withholding certain information,

TUESDAY LAW REPORT

14 JULY 1998

Reynolds v Times Newspapers Ltd and others
Court of Appeal (Lord Bingham of Cornhill CJ, Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Robert Walker) 8 July 1998

and that he had lied to them about when it had come into his possession.

At the end of the trial the plaintiff was awarded 10 damages. He appealed, seeking a new trial, on the ground, inter alia, that the judge had misdirected the jury. Andrew Caldecott QC and Ben Hinchcliff (Crockers Oswald Hickson) for the plaintiff; Lord Lester of Herne Hill QC, James Price QC and Emma Dixon (Theodore Goddard) for the defendants.

Lord Bingham CJ said that the court had no effective alternative but to order a new trial of the action. It was thus necessary to decide whether the defendants could rely on qualified privilege in the re-trial.

The following questions had to be answered:
i) whether the publisher was under a legal, moral or social duty to choose to whom the material was published (the duty test);
ii) whether those to whom the material was published had an interest to receive the material (the interest test);
iii) whether the nature, status and source of the material, and the circumstances of the publication, were such that the publication should, in the absence of proof of express malice (the circumstantial test).

The circumstances in which the plaintiff's government had fallen from power were matters of undoubted public interest to the people of Great Britain, and the defendants clearly had a duty to inform the public of those matters. The duty and interest tests had thus been satisfied.

The circumstantial test had not, however, been satisfied. The allegation that the plaintiff had lied had been attributed to an unidentified colleague of Mr Spring. In the bitter aftermath of the events in question, a member of staff of one of the plaintiff's leading political opponents could scarcely be judged an authoritative source for so serious a factual allegation. Mr Spring had not in terms accused the plaintiff of lying to the Dail, but had strongly criticised the plaintiff for failing to disclose information, that criticism being consistent with an honest but mistaken omission on the plaintiff's part.

The defendants had wholly failed to record the plaintiff's own account of his conduct, or to obtain his observations on their conclusions. They had failed to resolve whether he was a victim of circumstance, as conveyed to Irish readers in an article in the Irish edition of the *Sunday Times*, or a devious liar, as conveyed to readers on the mainland of Britain. It should have been obvious that he could not be both.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON
scrutable, adj (rare).

exists, can you scrute? The scrut-in-scrutable is the same as in scrutiny. The rare and obsolete verb to scrute meant to scrutinize (though the OED gives

only one citation, from 1536). Scrutable is a more modern word, though almost as rare as scrutable itself. Scrutator - one who examines - is the most respectable of the bunch. All these words derive from the Latin scruto, trash or broken pieces, and imply a search even among the rags.

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JOYS OF MODERN LIFE

5. VOICE MAIL
BY ANN TRENEMAN

My affair with voice mail began when there was no voice mail, only answering machines. At the time these were large and bulky and viewed as hugely antisocial. My friends believed that, by the very act of owning one, I had become less human. They objected to everything about it: the beeps, my message, the fact that they were speaking to a machine. "I hate talking to this machine!" they would shout into it. I felt bad about this - not bad enough to get rid of the thing, mind, but bad enough to insert about a dozen "I'm sorry" into the message.

At this point I loved the answering machine for the most basic of reasons: I did not have to wait around for phone calls that sometimes never came. Entire days used to be wasted in this way. (This now seems to be the most ancient of notions; I tried to explain it to some kids the other day but they just asked why I did not use my mobile instead.)

Anyway, so there I was, revelling in the freedom to leave my own house, when I spent a day with my friend Lorraine and discovered that, when it came to answering machines, I knew nothing. Lorraine's husband is extremely creative with his DIY and had rigged up the machine to some sort of megaphone system. The result was that messages boomed out around the house as if you were in a train station instead of a three-bedroom pebbledash in suburbia.

And on that day, as I sat and listened to someone babbling on to her machine, something occurred to me: Lorraine had left on her answering machine while she was in the house! "But what will people think?" I asked. "You know, Ann, somehow I don't think they will ever know," she said.

Now, I knew in my heart she was right, but I just could not shake the idea that there

was something dishonest about call-screening. So I allowed myself to do this only when there was sufficient moral reason (such as when I was watching *ER*, say). Then a few more moral reasons (too busy procrastinating, for instance) were allowed. This is the limbo-land of telephone etiquette, and it is not a comfortable place.

So I was pleased when the revelation came. One day the phone rang and I answered it.

"Oh, you're home," said a friend glumly. "I'm just calling to leave a message on your machine."

"Well, I'm home, so you can just tell me."

"OK," she said, with even less enthusiasm.

And then it dawned on me. She did not want to talk to me. Not personally, at least. She wanted to tell me something, but without having anything as messy as a real conversation. In less than 10 years my friends had changed their attitude from shouting "I hate talking to this machine" to "I hate talking to this human".

At first I was a bit miffed, but I quickly realised this was a wonderful thing. Voice mail has become a way of "talking" without holding a conversation. Simply put, it is the latest thing in one-way communication.

Thank God something has replaced the note. It is wonderful to leave "thank you" messages instead of writing "thank you" notes.

But, of course, this can only be done at times when you know that people are out.

This can become a bit of a habit. Ringing round and leaving lots of messages means that I can "talk" to lots of people without, of course, talking to anything more taxing than a series of beeps. Sometimes I spend entire weeks "talking" to people in such a way.

And why not? After all, there is communication and then there is communication, and if you need the two-way kind, then you can always try the mobile.



When the son of a famous father gets caught red-handed, he is bound to hit the headlines. If you think that's going to stop him, think again. By Glenda Cooper

You're an embarrassment



The McVicar: Russell Grant managed to surpass the exploits of father John.



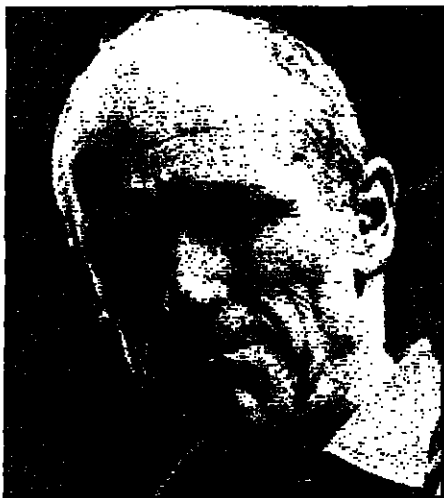
Paul Daniels Jr was jailed for selling worthless insurance policies.



The Duke of Marlborough was forced to disinherit his heir, Jamie Blandford.



Was William Straw taking revenge by his choice of song on Desert Island Discs?



AT THE turn of the century Oscar Wilde's judgement may have been correct: "Children begin by loving their parents; after a while they judge them; rarely, if ever, do they forgive them." But in today's naughty Nineties it's much more likely to be the other way round.

The latest parent to discover tears before bedtime is Home Secretary Jack Straw who faced grave embarrassment last year when his son William was given a police caution after being caught selling cannabis.

Mr Straw confided on *Desert Island Discs* that he believed William had been set up, but added: "That doesn't excuse what he did, which was wrong and foolish. I talked to him and said 'Go to the police station and take it on the chin'."

William did what dad suggested. But was there in the young Straw a thirst for revenge at having to submit to his father's dictum? It certainly seems as if he got his own back last week on *Desert Island Discs*. For the Home Secretary had asked William and his sister Charlotte to help select one of the records.

The Straws junior chose "History" by The Verve, a group not unknown for their predilection for illegal substances (another single: "The Drugs Don't Work"). What is more, the song contained the chorus "I've got a skinful of dope". Mr Straw had asked the naughty two to choose a record to remind him of family life during his desert island exile. Yes, but not that bit, William.

Running through Mr Straw's mind must have been Ambrose Bierce's comment in the *San Francisco News Letter* last century: "The fact that boys are allowed to exist at all is evidence of a remarkable Christian forbearance amongst men". So must the thought that in the past it was children who were terminally embarrassed by parents, whether by talking too loudly, wearing the wrong hat to school speech day or complaining that they couldn't understand the words on any records. Now the situation has changed and it is parents who find themselves far too often put in awkward situations by their children.

Of course, in the past too, offspring did sometimes take the opportunity to embarrass their parents. But it was fairly simple. You wrote a warts-and-all book and called it *Mommie Dearest* or if you were Patti Reagan, wrote political "novels" based on life in the White House while posing for *Playboy*.

Neither Joan Crawford or the Reagans were particularly pleased one would imagine, but at least their offspring were doing something that however repellent was completely legal. In comparison, today's celebrity children rebels scoff at such lightweight peccadilloes. For them, unless the full force of the law falls on them, they hardly count as a miscreant at all.

Last week, the son of the millionaire magician Paul Daniels was jailed for a year after making £10,000 by selling worthless motorcycle in-

surance policies. Paul Daniels Jr admitted setting up Bikeline Direct, a motorcycle insurance company which claimed to undercut competitors, even though Daniels Jr had not been authorised to carry out insurance work and made no arrangements to underwrite the business. The DTI said if any major claims were made, there would have been no money to pay out.

His crimes, however, were surpassed by the son of the author and reformed criminal John McVicar.

'Russell derives satisfaction from being precisely what I was and now detest'

Russell Grant-McVicar has just been jailed for 15 years for a series of armed robberies, including the theft of a Picasso oil painting. The 33-year-old carried out a total of eight robberies, netting more than £100,000 in the process.

To someone once dubbed "Britain's most wanted man", the son's exploits might have been calculated to evoke paternal pride. Not a bit of it. "Russell derives psychological satisfaction from being precisely what I was and now detest," says McVicar. "Freud would have had a field day with him and me."

Grant-McVicar himself confirms this chain of events, blaming his father for not being around during his childhood, denigrating him as "the darling of the fashionable left" and describing his own crimes as part of a "spiritual mission".

Another father who has had trouble with his son is the Duke of Marlborough, who was forced to disinherit his heir, Jamie Blandford. The Duke got a court to ban his son from taking over the Blenheim estate in Oxfordshire some years ago.

Where Jamie's peer group from Harrow extended their curricula vitae with degrees, works published or caps won for England, he clocked up a string of fines for assaulting police, speeding, driving while disqualified, breaking into a chemist's in search of drugs, possession of cocaine and non-payment of maintenance to his estranged wife, Becky, the Marchioness of Blandford. The family motto could have been designed for him: *Fiel pero desdichado* (Faithful though unfortunate).

Jamie seeing a £100m inheritance disappearing more quickly than the cocaine up his nose, apologised to his father "for the distress I've caused" but blamed his problems on his pater having refused to kiss him when he arrived at prep school.

Few of us are heirs to a dukedom and suffer that peculiar kind of trauma. But the Blandford case provides a possible key as to why famous people's children tend to behave in such embarrassing ways.

In 1882, Gladstone remarked: "There never was a Churchill from

John of Marlborough that had either morals or principles." It is fair to say that the present Duke is an exception to the rule but Gladstone has hit on something.

Most of the famous parents described above are not themselves above a bit of embarrassing behaviour - witness Paul Daniels's toupee for a start. So, perhaps the easiest explanation is that there is a gene for embarrassing behaviour that is passed on from parent to child, making them more prone to exuberant exploits and shunning conventional retirement.

Such a gene would explain why most snotty teenagers are content to blast their parents' eardrums with music or leave the house a wreck after a party, but not go as far as stealing a Picasso. The parents' biological make-up is to blame.

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Makes you wonder what a Wordsworth junior might have got up to behind the daffodils.

John of Marlborough that had either morals or principles." It is fair to say that the present Duke is an exception to the rule but Gladstone has hit on something.

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When freedom is a flattened cardboard box for a bed

The Prime Minister has vowed to get the homeless off the streets, but how do they feel about the alternatives? A night on a soup run reveals that not everyone believes their lives would be changed by a roof over their heads. By Emeka Nwandiko

CRAIG LEFT his home in Scotland for the dream of one day being a chef at the Savoy hotel. Just two hundred yards from the famous hotel, the 20-year-old homeless youth is being catered for by soup run volunteers who offer him Marks & Spencer's sandwiches and strawberries.

Sitting on a blue sleeping bag with two of his friends, he says, "I came down from Kilmarnock two years ago to find work, but I ended up being homeless."

Craig and 44 other homeless people have formed a nocturnal cardboard city on the back entrance of shell Mex House near the Victoria Embankment. All of them suspend their activities to flock around a red van from which volunteers dole out food and drink.

Soup run vans have been partially blamed for exasperating the problem of homelessness in Britain, with numbers of people sleeping rough estimated at 2,000 nationally and around 400 in the capital. But a 30-day volunteer, who would only give her name as Camilla, refutes such claims: "This is nonsense. You wouldn't choose a life like this."

She looks at the temporarily abandoned blankets. "How many people do you know would say 'I'll sleep on the streets so I can get soup'?"

Tonight's menu is chicken salad and sandwiches, tea, bread rolls, and strawberries donated by Marks & Spencer. Twenty minutes later, the

feeding frenzy is over and the van makes its way to the Strand. Craig and the other dispossessed make their way to the allotments.

Neat rows of blankets on flattened-out cardboard boxes are used as beds. Most have a box on one end to provide shelter for the head against the elements - and shouting drunks.

"If I get robbed again I will rob each and every one of you... can you understand that?" shouts a Scottish man, swaying badly. "If any of you steal my blankets I'll burn each and every one of your blankets and cardboard boxes, do you hear?"

He gives a man called John, whose head is stuffed in a box, a prod with a booted foot. Leaning over John, the Scot shouts even louder: "Do you hear? If you take my blanket again I will burn yours."

"But I didn't take your blanket," John protests.

The Scot straightens up and appeals to all within earshot: "I have had my blanket stolen three times. I just want some peace, let me be!" He staggers off.

"It's not always like this," says Ray, who has been whistling "Times They Are A-Changing" during the outburst. "This has been happening over the last three months," says Ray in a vain attempt to make out that living on the streets is an acceptable way of life.

The 39-year-old, who says he was



Sleeping rough on the Victoria Embankment

Tom Pilston

in the Green Jackets for nine years, said he could not cope with the reality of life once he had left the armed forces. And he does not think the appointment of the Street Tsar will change his fortunes. "I did a job for a while and my girlfriend wanted me to marry her. It was too much. I locked up the flat and here I am." He

has been living on the streets of London for the last five years.

To get by, he sells copies of *The Big Issue* magazine. "I sell about 60 a week which costs me £24. I am left with £36 with which I pay for laundry and smokes, which leaves me with nothing."

When asked why he leaves his life

to chance, Ray replies: "It is easier for me. It is much harder to change and get into normality. Here, I don't have to answer to anybody."

Soon a new reality will force Ray, and the estimated 400 people sleeping rough in London, to realise that the streets will no longer be theirs. They will soon have the authorities

to answer to. Last Tuesday the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, announced plans that will be enacted next spring to appoint a Street Tsar for London, whose brief it will be to get people off the streets, by force if necessary, if they refuse to be accommodated in a hostel.

"I'd rather spend a night in jail," says Ray. "Hostels are full of drug addicts and alcoholics. He [the Prime Minister] is picking on defenceless people so he can be seen to be doing something."

Just as he is getting into his stride, a couple - a man in a beige suit and his companion in a lime-green skirt and black blouse - are accosted by "fuck you" as they climb into a P-registered black Audi convertible. The man waves to the drunk before ducking his head into the car.

Ray is silent.

Craig admits that his current predicament was of his own making. "I probably made myself homeless. I didn't want help from anybody." He goes on: "Being on the streets has made me feel vulnerable. I'm trying to get on my own two feet by asking for help."

"If I can find a job tomorrow, I will take it. It doesn't have to be in catering." Although he may not be on the streets to witness the Tsar, he has a little benevolence: "What Tony Blair wants to do is right in a way, aye. Not everybody can stay on

the streets for the rest of their lives. Can they?"

Two foreign homeless people also back the Prime Minister's plans: "In Singapore you would be arrested if you were homeless," says John, 27. His companion Crystal, 30, from Belgium, says the same fate befalls those who sleep rough on the streets of her country.

John arrived nine weeks ago from Dublin. He blames 20 years of alcohol abuse for his sleeping rough. "I got a job as a chef soon after I arrived, but I was sacked because I drank too much." He has since given up drinking. John has a poor impression of those sleeping rough in London: "I was told by an ex-homeless guy that you can never starve in London. Life is so easy here."

But his companion does not agree: "It is important for people to be helped so they do not go hungry," says Crystal between sips of tea.

Behind the pair another couple are heating up a substance in a tablespoon.

Crystal came to London "to make her own way in life" as a nurse after falling out with her parents back home. She has been sleeping rough on the streets for nine weeks. "Living on the streets is very dangerous for a woman. Life would be easier if I had a roof over my head until I sorted myself out. I start work at six in the morning."

Women have fought long and hard for equal opportunities, but it seems the biggest battle is at home. Success at work can cause irreparable damage to a relationship.
By Clare Longrigg

As Helen Fielding, author of the best-selling *Bridget Jones's Diary*, embarks on her US tour, she has been named one of Britain's wealthiest women. Last year, we are told, her book and column netted her nearly £1m. But hey, we are told, as though it were a logical result of her high earnings, look: no man in tow.

No doubt about it, rich women are on the increase in the UK. A report revealed last week that over the past decade the number of women earning more than their partners rose from one in 15 to one in five. So far so good, but there is a price to pay. Many women who are successful in their work neglect to make any adjustment in their relationships. Some women take revenge on the traditional breadwinner figure and use every chance to humiliate men. Some men in this situation have affairs, even violent. We have come all this way to get ourselves a decent education and equal opportunities at work, and the hardest battle turns out to be fought at home.

We are not far from the times when men married their secretaries (which was the reason some women took the job in the first place), or when wives stepped out of the bridal gown into the position of personal assistant, and the image continues to colour our expectations. A man whose job is to be one of his wife's support staff is still the object of unkind curiosity.

Claire Rayner, the best-selling novelist and agony aunt, is married to Des, an accountant who has become her agent and manager. She is angered that the issue of her relative success comes up at all.

"It's other people's bad manners that are the problem, people who don't know what to call him. He's Des Rayner. I married him 40 years ago and took his name, of course I did. He is part of the success, and it was his hard work that enabled me to do it. It was his earnings that allowed me to try my hand at writing."

Rayner acknowledges that her initial success forced them to make adjustments in the relationship. "In the early days it was a bind - mostly because of other people's stupidity. I got very tiresome, men saying: 'I wish I had a wife who could earn that much money... You want to kick them in the balls. It's nearly always men. I can remember one woman though, after I sold a book very well in the States, who turned to me and said: 'My husband says he wishes he could get paid what you do for writing that trash.'"

Women who have made sudden fortunes from novels frequently find their success causes shockwaves in their relationships - particularly where her work was previously considered a harmless hobby. One best-selling novelist, who wished not to be named, points

out the subtle power struggle that can result from an unequal income.

"Men suffer as women once suffered from being the one who wasn't earning the money. There is still the feeling that those who earn most outside the home deserve most inside the home. It can be hard on the person who isn't going out and earning the money. When women didn't work, if you wanted a new pair of shoes you had to ask your husband and he would say: 'What's wrong with the ones you've got on?' Or a woman might have had an allowance, which made her very childlike and dependent. Nowadays, difference in earnings is covered up very sensibly and it's customary for men and women to share a bank account, which didn't happen in the past."

Once Claire Rayner became successful, she and her husband worked out a solution to their imbalanced earnings. "The financial side is dead simple: we put it all in the same kitty. I have never used money as a weapon or regarded it highly. But we do have separate pocket money so that if we want to buy each other a present it's a real one."

Money can become a burning issue in relationships where women become resentful if the man cannot or does not pay his way. This probably arises from a more old-fashioned instinct than most women would care to acknowledge. Having scoffed at the idea that successful women still encounter problems in their relationships, the same best-selling author admits: "I dare say a rich and famous woman would wish that her husband were richer and more famous than she. There is a stubborn, traditional corner of most women that would like her man to be the provider."

Counselor Sue Quilliam says women's attitudes tend to be very traditional, and deeply ingrained. "The woman buys into the idea that women are brought up to affiliate, men to achieve. She thinks: 'I have to make him feel good or he will withdraw his affection.' Women have an inbred need, because we have to look after children, we want to know we've got a provider. It is a burden and we expect men to carry it. We can't expect this attitude to change over 20 years."

Women who are promoted at work need to make compromises at home, says Quilliam, or risk collateral damage. "The man needs to know: if you are in power at work, where does that leave me? Some men will try to undermine the woman's success, pointing out the



pressure she puts herself under. Some will even downgrade her achievements in public. A woman whose marriage was in effect destroyed by her sudden success agrees that men and women probably prefer to stay in their traditional roles of provider and nurturer. "Life would be so much

quieter and calmer and easier. Nobody can handle a successful woman. Men are still having a tantrum about feminism. Unless the man has his own territory clearly marked out, it's a disaster. He can't handle it. If a man gets successful he'll go off and bang someone younger with bigger boobs. If a woman gets successful, he'll give her shit for it, unless he's at the top of his own, separate profession."

But women also punish men for their relative "failure". This is either the traditionalist in her, longing to be supported, or else it's a kind of vengeance - perhaps on behalf of her mother, who spent long years at the kitchen sink, bored out of her mind, having to repeat the mantra: "Did you have a good day at the office dear?"

When war reporter Janine Di Giovanni made her name in Bosnia, her relationship took the brunt of artillery fire. "It was a classic. He was my boss. He'd been in the business 10 years, he was a hardcore, hard-nosed news person. He taught me the job: he taught me how to do it, how to have sharp elbows, how to get information from

the police. He really helped me get started in my career. Once things got started he got weird about it. When I got my first book commission he was proud of me, but later it changed."

It did not help that as Di Giovanni's career took off, her boyfriend's took a dive. He lost his job, and spent a long time out of work. This turned out to be a problem as much for her as it was for him. She was not comfortable with the role of provider, and began to punish him for his lack of success. "I was brought up in the kind of world where men support women. I didn't like it that he was out of work - I thought I was going to have to carry the burden. I wasn't supportive at all. I had a very high life then, and forced him to live the high life too, even though he didn't have very much money. I'd insist on going on expensive holidays and as a result, he was getting more and more in debt."

"For a long time he was like the woman in the relationship, and it was hard for me to take. I am quite feminine but I'm a tough operator, and I wanted someone tough. I

now realise how lucky I was to have so much nurturing, but at the time I reacted like a man - I went out on the road and had flings."

The single-minded drive for success undoubtedly demands a huge price from men and women, but Di Giovanni found that single-mindedness in women can destroy relationships. "At some point he realised my work came first, and that was probably the end of the relationship. He's now with someone much younger who doesn't confront him."

Women find it easier to take the supporting role, so if a woman is very successful she often continues to encourage her man and assumes that will make everything all right. But one woman, who became the casualty of her boyfriend's long, slow-burning grudge suggests that being supportive is not enough. "You have to think: 'Am I too much for this person?' Maybe I'm making him feel inadequate. I don't mind being the more successful one but you have to look at it from the other person's point of view. And when I thought about it later, I realised that I never wanted to be the making of him. I wanted him to do it by himself."

Claire Rayner: 'It got very tiresome, men saying they wished they had a wife who could make that much money.' Helen Fielding (below) made nearly £1m all by herself

David Rose

So how much did you earn this week, darling?

REVELATIONS

DES'REE, BARBADOS 1981

I discovered I am into making things happen

MOVING TO Barbados, when I was just 12, I found the intense heat pretty exhausting - especially after London. Living in the country took some getting used to because our neighbours were now a mile or two away and there would also be strange noises from the forest and lizards, too. It was quite an eye-opener. Although I missed my friends desperately, it was here I learnt I had an entrepreneurial spirit.

We were living in the same house that my Dad grew up in. It was amazing for me because when you're young you think your parents are so old that their childhood home couldn't possibly still be standing! It was made of wood, painted light beige with those old-fashioned shuttered windows and a veranda where we used to sit in the morning and have breakfast. My mum, in her spare time from the hospital where she was a nurse, would plant the land. We lived quite organically, a great combine harvester would till up the soil and she would plant cucumbers and tomatoes. In our garden we had avocado trees, guava, a huge West Indian cherry tree and, most important, five mango trees. Al-

though everybody else loved mangoes, I found them too rich, too fleshy and too fragrant. However, they would prove the solution to a pressing problem: my parents were not big believers in pocket money. It was quite distressing; they thought we would only buy sweets to rot our teeth. What's more they were very much into me learning the value of money, so I had to save up for things I wanted from the small amount they did give me.

During the school holidays we were really bored, back in London everything was more catered for, there's only so much homework you can do and telly didn't come on during the day. We had about seven weeks' summer vacation and I thought there must be something better to do than going to the beach every day! So I decided to start my own business and sell the mangoes. I hated so much; that way I'd be able to afford my own bicycle and roller skates.

It was great fun climbing the mango trees to pick the fruit, although when ripe many of them would fall to the ground and we'd sort out which ones hadn't been

bruised. I put a sign up in front of the house: MANGOES FOR SALE - CALL INSIDE. We'd wait inside until we heard somebody call out and I'd nip out and make the transaction. We got a dollar for about five of them, which wasn't bad considering that's about what I got for pocket money.

Looking back, I suppose I was quite adventurous: always seeking out new things to do, asking questions and always trying to reason out my parents' reasons for not letting me do certain things - like making music. I was already starting to think of it as a career. I suppose I was trying to convince them that I would be fine: I'm not going to hurt myself, trust me.

I didn't keep all my new riches to myself, I shared with my younger sister and my friends. We'd go to the cinema or I'd buy us all milkshakes at the weekend. Very innocent fun. But selling my mangoes gave me confidence. From then onwards I knew I had an independent streak and, perhaps more importantly, the driving ambition to be a creative person.

Growing up I knew there was this force inside me and it was something



We were living in the same house that my Dad grew up in. My mum, in her spare time, would plant the land. We lived quite organically

I needed to explore. I had started playing the piano when I was about four years old but hated practising. I just wanted to make up my own songs. Next I played the viola, but again I wanted to get past all the theory and become creative. At my convent school, I formed a group called Sophisticated Funk and used to write all the songs - no instruments, we would make up all the beats and music ourselves. Using my new-found entrepreneurial skills I would organise concerts and got a detention for missing a lesson or two - we had to make certain we'd got the music just right!

I was only in Barbados for two and a half years, but they were very important years in my life. At 14 I returned to England, it was difficult to adjust because I really thought Barbados was home. I was used to the sunshine lifestyle, so coming back in July and finding England overcast was pretty miserable. Fortunately I went to my original school again, so there was a reunion and I got back my old friends. However, I never made it known to them how serious the ambition to make music was in my mind - I kept that to myself. I

suppose I was afraid that I would be seen as bragging or boasting. I was very sensitive to that. It might not sound like the girl selling her mangoes but I have been through many changes in my life. First I am extrovert and then very reflective and more introspective - then I come out again. I really don't know why - I feel that sometimes we don't spend enough time listening to ourselves. We can get so caught up in modern life that we forget how important it is to have quiet time. Returning to England was the first of those periods for me, I'd had so much to deal with. So I underwent intense visualisation because I was thinking about my future and how to break into the music business.

There has been a four-year gap between my new album and the last one. I really withdrew from a lot of things again. I just didn't want anything to take my energy away from the goal - it was a very introspective, intense time. After two years in the studio I can hear the blood, sweat and tears. In a way I have taken a risk because this album is a lot more upbeat, some people aren't going to like it but this is where I am right

now. I'm going to take a chance and go for it because I believe in myself and my music.

At 12, my mother thought I was an old head on young shoulders, but now I feel I've grown into my own age. I'm ready to have fun and be reckless. I was all serious but now I'm ready to go a bit crazy. I've done it all back to front. I have lots of reasons to be grateful for moving to Barbados because I learnt that I am into making things happen, rather than sitting back and being miserable. It is all about self-exploitation. Selling those mangoes was the first time I went for it - and it worked and we all benefited. It's important to have that conviction. I believed so strongly about wanting to make music I could taste it like a fork touching a filling - zing. It's a funny sensation. I experience all my senses really strongly, I can smell tar burning four streets away. Perhaps that is why I found the mango a bit overpowering as a child, and you know what, I still don't like them!

Interview: Andrew G Marshall
Des'ree's new album is called 'Supernatural' and it's out now on S2.

The last of the angry young men

It's 14 years since his last novel, he's been ignored and insulted, but David Storey just doesn't care. By Jasper Rees

If David Storey were a heavy industry, they'd have closed him down years ago. He is the last of the Angry Young Men who, in fiction and film, made a hero of the working-class Northern. His father spent his life down a Yorkshire pit, and out of guilt, Storey has always seen his career as a daily series of grinding shifts mining black stuff from the seam of his own soul.

This month he reaches official closing-down age. All the evidence suggests that he may as well have retired somewhere in his fifties. His last play was performed in 1982. His last novel was published in 1984. But he still chips away in the mornings in a chaotic study at the back of his house in Kentish town. Finally, a novel appeared last month, called *A Serious Man*. It is a compelling analysis of a 65-year-old novelist with writer's block, whose father was a Yorkshire miner.

In fact, the novel was written a dozen years ago. But that is nothing compared to the book that follows it next spring, which was begun in 1962. Its 37-year gestation may well be the longest in English literary history. "It shows that it's got problems," says its author, lugubriously. "In the end, it just became a challenge to get it into some kind of shape. About two years ago I got it out again, having had well over 30 or 40 goes at it, and found a way of cutting through it. I was so relieved that I typed out this novel, which I had finished 12 years ago."

Storey is still best known for *This Sporting Life*, his debut novel set in the gritty world of rugby league. It was partly autobiographical: Storey is the only Booker winner to have studied human nature in the Leeds second row. There is still a brawny, hunkish look about him, with his big-boned face, ramrod nose and white, close-cropped hair.

He was 18 when, forfeiting his place at university to paint, he signed for Leeds to keep himself in brushes and oils. "It was a horrendous life. In one game, the ball came to my feet in a scrum. I knew if I picked it up I'd get kicked in the face, and I paused. My second-row partner was 30 and on his way out and his instincts were spontaneous: he leaned down, picked it up and got kicked in the mouth. He looked up

and his mouth was a mash of blood and broken teeth. Instead of looking at the guy who kicked him, he looked at me and swore."

Storey, like Richard Fenchurch in *A Serious Man*, is the wryly amused butt of all his best anecdotes, in which either his paintings, plays or novels are disdained or rejected. It is as if these illustrations of his unpopularity validate Storey's central credo: that he is an outsider. His emigration to London made him feel "like a displaced person, which I rather liked. The anonymity is what I've always cherished. I feel a sense of remoteness." (Every time he passes through Wakefield still he has the same thought: "How soon can I get out of here?")

By commuting for a year between art school in London and rugby club in Leeds, Storey fashioned for himself a life of double exile in which no one at either polarity saw the point of him. He tells a particularly Baroque tale against himself of a disastrous annual dinner he organised at the Slade, when Lucian Freud, who taught the life class (and hated Storey's efforts), brought a slavering hound on his wife's ticket. It sat opposite Storey on top table and ate off the plate. The students lit fires on their tables. A woman, previously scorned, threw a plate at Storey but hit his date, knocking her out cold. Someone rose to make a speech which began with the words, "David Storey is a -" and used the same word that a rugby professional had chosen to deliver the verdict on Storey.

Once, the Leeds scrum half, a thickset of muscles called Platt, pulled him aside and said, "I shouldn't swear, David, if I were you. It's not in your character."

If swearing is not in Storey's character, what is? He thinks the crucial clue may lie in the nine months' solitary he did in his mother's womb. He was there when a six-year-old brother, conceived illegitimately, died suddenly. "My mother became quite suicidal during that period. When I was born she withdrew emotionally - never cuddled or held me. I just lay there in the pram and seemed totally content. In analytical terms, you'd say I was born very depressed."

He was drawn, instead, to his outgoing father. It was Storey, rather



As he reaches pensionable age, there remains something of the sportsman in David Storey's face

than either of his two more extrovert brothers, who persuaded his father to retire early. He bought his parents a home near Scarborough, assuming that the old miner would survive six months. In fact, he outlived the mortgage. Thus, during his most productive years, Storey supported two parents and four children: "This was the first time I realised that the creative powers are not limitless - that these family logistics needed a resourcefulness that probably exceeded my artistic abilities."

Although he had shown previous signs of financial recklessness (blowing a whole award cheque on a new Jaguar) he says he got "quite shaken" by the pressure of paying

for two houses. He has previously admitted to some kind of breakdown at 48, but he now plays it down. "I've never had manic depression, where you try to amend the polarities." There seems to have been a catharsis in 1987, in the days between his father's death and cremation. "I was waking up at night very depressed and coming down here. It was the first time in my life that what was totally unacceptable had to be accepted. And at some point, my mind had moved on to other things, and I looked up and he was standing there. [We are in the sitting-room]. He went and he sat there for an hour [he points to the place next to me on the sofa] and said, 'My life has been

distressing, but it is at an end. The pain has gone and I'm happy.' I had a very powerful sense that I there-fore need not suffer any more." The apparition returned regularly until Storey got back from the funeral. It would be a mistake to paint Storey as a lonely toiler walling up inside his own dreams. He has been married for 42 years to Barbara, who works at the Citizen's Advice Bureau. In the mid-Seventies he waged a long war of attrition against the Hampstead Comprehensive where his eldest daughter, Helen, the fashion designer, secured only one O-level; he finally got the headmaster to admit that his criticisms were all valid. And then there was the time

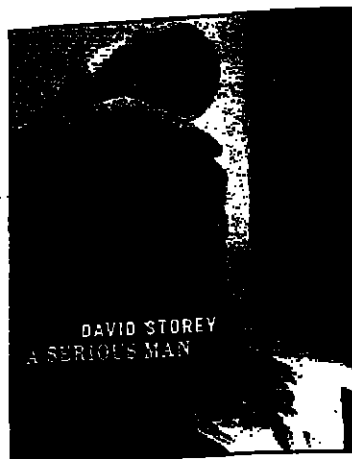
he roughed up the theatre critics who had slammed a play of his as they filed into the Royal Court.

They may not get a chance to assess his next play, which has been rejected by the Royal Court and the National Theatre. But the ebbing of public applause, and even private inspiration, no longer seems to bother him. "I think I've gone past caring."

Of course, there's always the pension. "It's the first time I've had a regular income forecast. I had a cynical view of having a regular income: it may turn into having regular thoughts. But it was as if, at last, up there, I'd been noticed." *A Serious Man* is published by Jonathan Cape, £16.99 hardback

A SERIOUS MAN

THE OPENING PASSAGE FROM DAVID STOREY'S NEW NOVEL



HARRIET SAYS I'm going to die. It's true, she had, moments before she told me, lost her temper (who wouldn't with a man of 65 who behaves as if he were approaching 90?); yet she had been talking to Raynor (was ensconced with him this morning for half an hour and when she came out looked very peaked), and though Raynor has only made the one examination he has, she says, consulted Maidstone, the Sub-Dean of the Medical School and the Longcroft Professor of Psychiatry at the North London Royal, by telephone as well as letter.

Two and a half years in Booby Hall (and the same again at the N.L.R.) have not done me, on the whole, a lot of good. I say "in", but, to be more accurate, in and out: yet when I was out the threat of re-interment never left me. When, for instance, she said, "You are going to die," my immediate response was to say, "Is that a clinical judgement or merely a comment on the nature of life?" and might have gone on to announce, "I haven't lived long enough. There's so much still I'd like to do," but since, moments later, she walked out of the room I was unable to decide precisely what she meant and could only call after her, "That's what I want. To put an end to all this pain."

Why she's brought me to this house I've no idea: over the past five years I've come to hate as well as fear the mention of its name. "I can't leave you in this hotel," she declared, meaning my home in Taravara Road I shared with Vi, and when I replied, "I love this place. Vivienne and I were very happy," she instantly responded, "Don't talk to me about her. You know how much you despised her."

"I didn't despise her at all," I told her, totally confused. "Why do you think she killed herself?" she asked.

"The pain," I said, "became too much. More." I went on, "than people like you, with humdrum jobs and humdrum minds (with humdrum feelings and humdrum reflections) can possibly imagine."

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What's so funny about Seinfeld?

ONLY A star of Jerry Seinfeld's magnitude could schedule not one, but two London Palladium shows clashing with the World Cup Final and fill them both.

Such was the American stand-up's relaxed air on stage that he could even joke about the fact that he had "carefully booked World Cup Final night. We were trying to book a theatre in Drumcree, but we couldn't find one."

He went on to display his countrymen's deep under-

COMEDY
JERRY SEINFELD
LONDON PALLADIUM

standing of football. "To us, it's stupid; it's just hard to understand why you can't use your hand." But anyone who went into the theatre on Sunday night fretting over Ronaldo's fitness soon forgot about such trivia. Even the charms of audience-members Angus Deayton and Ulrika Jonsson could



not distract the enraptured punters. Seinfeld's enigmatic sitcom was famously about nothing: it stuck staunchly by its

guiding principle: "no hugging, no learning." The same (lack of) sentiment applies to his live act. He is barely concerned with the big issues: what really bugs him is the minutiae of life. In Seinfeld's universe, nothing gets to us more than something as apparently fooling as that mystery hair which is always stuck on the bathroom wall just out of reach. Like all of us, he is incensed by the fact that he always seems to get trapped in the supermarket queue behind

someone paying by cheque. He is equally riled when airline pilots insist on broadcasting their every move over the PA. "Do I knock on the cockpit door bothering him with our activities?" asks Seinfeld. "We're having our peanuts now."

Like his sitcom alter ego, Seinfeld on stage is a man at two with the world, perplexed by such earth-shattering matters as why women use so many cotton-wool balls when he's never bought one in his life.

He admits to being so out of step with the rest of society, he even believes TV infomercials. "Hey, I don't have a knife that could cut through a shoe. Maybe I should look into this."

It's not radical, groundbreaking material, and as we left, we weren't hugging each other and we hadn't learnt anything. But we'd had almost as much fun as Zinedine Zidane.

JAMES RAMPTON
This review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

Sounds of darkness

THE CENCI by Shelley is one of those impossible verse dramas doomed apparently never to have a dramatic life off the page - except, perhaps, in the Technicolour guise of opera. Given that the plot features murder, torture, incest and public executions, it would seem to have all the makings of a hit, but only two composers have made the attempt, so far - great English eccentric, Havergal Brian, and exile from Hitler's Germany, Bertold Goldschmidt. Neither work was performed until recently, and it is a measure of Trinity College's "spirit of enquiry and adventure" that they have finally given Goldschmidt's opera its UK staged premiere.

Directed with a forthright touch by Stephen Langridge, the action was presented on an economical but remarkably effective set by Friederike Schneider - angular and constructivist, with a dramatic bridge over the fully visible orchestra. Against this severe backdrop, the luscious renaissance costumes looked all the

OPERA
BEATRICE CENCI
SPITALFIELDS
MARKET OPERA
LONDON

richer: Goldschmidt's musical language combines a neo-tonal romanticism with pungent, spiky touches of harmony and rhythm - reminiscent at times of the music of Arthur Bliss, or even Walton, both of whom wrote major operas at about the same time. Perhaps it was something to do with the artistic atmosphere of post-war Britain - or was it Goldschmidt adjusting to the expectations of a British audience?

His vocal lines are quirky and angular and not too well supported by the orchestra, and this cast of young singers coped with them remarkably well. Stephen Bowen, as the dreadful Count Cenci himself, had a commanding vocal and physical presence, while Julie Leyland's performance in the title role grew in stature as the

evening progressed, with a real tragic quality in the dark, closing scenes. Pauls Putins was impressive as Cardinal Camillo, while Benjamin Lake showed promise as a future dramatic tenor in the role of Orsino. The supporting cast all had their special qualities, with a particularly charming rendition of Shelley's beautiful song, "Thou art fair", given by James Geer.

The chorus looked magnificent, delivering their relatively small contribution with intensity and conviction. Goldschmidt's orchestral writing is rich and powerful, but at times heavy-handed - conductor Gregory Rose did well to keep it under control and give the singers a chance. At the same time, he brought out delicate moments where the composer responds to Shelley's lyrics with finesse.

A strange, dark exploration of the consequences of evil and its corrupting power, then, this production proved something of a triumph.

LAURENCE HUGHES

Music for martyrs

THERE WAS an element of suspense at Westminster Abbey last Wednesday evening. A huge sheet covered part of the facade above the west door. Behind it were new statues of twelve 20th century Christian martyrs. As to who they were, and what their effigies looked like - for that one would have had to come back the following day, Wednesday's Commemorative Concert in the Abbey provided few clues, though the presence of quotations from Martin Luther King and Dietrich Bonhoeffer in the new work by John Hardy, "De Profundis", seemed to offer a sizeable hint.

The programme booklet opened with a thought from the second century Church Father, Tertullian, that "the seed of the church is the blood of its martyrs". Certainly, suffering seems to be the seed of much of the church's best music; from Bach's "St Matthew Passion" to black American Spirituals. Few, if any, great Christian works fail to acknowledge the dark-

CLASSICAL
COMMEMORATIVE
CONCERT
WESTMINSTER ABBEY
LONDON

er side of the life of faith. Could that be one reason why happy clappy hymns - with their insistence that everything is just fine in Jesus - are so execrable?

Most of the music in this concert was dark indeed. "O Vos Omnes" for unaccompanied chorus, by the great Catalan cellist, Pablo Casals, set a famous line from the Old Testament book of "Lamentations": "Is it nothing to you; all you that pass by?" The Westminster Abbey Choir sang it with elegance and intensity - Casals could evidently have taught a great many of today's composers a thing or two about eloquent simplicity.

Still more impressive was Krzysztof Penderecki's economical and powerful "Agnus Dei", again for unaccom-

panied chorus, this time the BBC Singers. Schoenberg's dictum that "concentration is expansion" was vindicated here; few of Penderecki's longer pieces are anything like as expressively potent.

The new work, John Hardy's "De Profundis", for chorus, brass, organ and percussion, was a very mixed bag. Stirring brass and chorus writing, alternating with clichéd devices and the use of what seemed to be Indian hand-bells, stirred unfortunate memories of Christ-massy sleigh-rides.

On the whole the concert served its purpose, stirring and provoking thought. However, the music would have been enough, without the sub-dear's extra meditations, delivered in the careful, old-fashioned (did someone say "frosty"?). Anglican style that is so unfashionable today.

Well, far better that than him trying to match the emotion of the music. There are some things composers do better than priests.

STEPHEN JOHNSON

There's no place like home

Especially if you're Andy Capp. Reg Smythe's cartoon creation was in his element in his domestic environment – asleep on the sofa, smoking a cigarette, beating up his wife. Now political correctness has cleaned up his act. But what's left, asks Tom Lubbock

Long before there were Nick Hornby novels and *Men Behaving Badly* to tell us that blokes are impossible yet lovable gits, there was Andy Capp. It was in 1957 that Reg Smythe, then 40 years old and a jobbing cartoonist on the *Daily Mirror*, first came up with the northern working-class anti-hero and his punch-bag wife Flo. They flourished. The cartoon has been syndicated to 1400 newspapers and translated into 13 languages. It is primarily a comedy of recognition. The statistics don't speak well for the world's husbands and wives.

Last year was its 40th anniversary, and the occasion for a touring exhibition, "Forty Years of Andy Capp", organized by the Centre for the Study of Cartoons and Caricature (of the University of Kent at Canterbury). Last month, this exhibition opened in Bristol. But just before that, Smythe died, at 81 – and the show acquired memorial status too. As such, it's modest enough. Smythe produced 18,000 Capp cartoons. The exhibition has 80 of Smythe's original drawings, two for each year, plus a small assortment of Cappabilia.

Strip cartoons aren't famous for progressing, but some changes are evident – Andy's (gradual) physical development, for example. In the first cartoons, which tend to be single- or double-frame not strips, he is a waddling, big-arsed, bottle-shaped figure, quite loosely drawn. It takes about 10 years for the classic formula to arrive – a more compact figure, constructed of straight lines and simple curves, the pitch of the "flat" cap sharpened to a perfect right-angle. But some things were there from the start. Ever capped, Andy's eyes have never been seen, and his cigarette was always either welded to his bottom lip (mouth open) or fully integrated into his profile (mouth shut).

The strip's themes have been constant too. Andy: resolutely work-shy and shiftless, a dedicated non-repayer, likes a jar, chases girls, gets home late, pissed. Flo: goes to work goes to bingo, suffers but sometimes outwits her husband. There are secondary characters, their friends Chalkie and Rubie, but they're not more than confidantes. There are the increasingly archaic authority figures, the Rent Man and the Vicar, to be resisted or appeased. The contemporary world hardly impinges, nor do Flo and Andy grow older – permanently middle-aged, living in a continual 1950s.

It's a portrait of an eternal, intolerable, inescapable marriage. They bicker, they scheme, they row, they scrap, they walk out on each other, and they always come back. There's hasn't been a physical side to things for ages, though Andy's philandering always seems to be

chaste. They have no children (but in the early years there was a separate, spin-off strip for children, "Buster, Son of Andy Capp"). They're like kids themselves: or rather, Smythe's knack is to mix considerable knowledge about marital strains and pains with the feeling that it's really only innocent rough-and-tumble.

Personally, I've never found it at all amusing, but you have to admire Smythe's "delivery" of a cartoon. The drawing as such is rarely funny (little physical observation), and there are few purely visual gags. But the timing and spacing of words and pictures, the pacing of the dialogue across the frames, the relative sizes of frame, the choice of what's on-stage and off-stage, the repetition of an identical image over two or three frames, these things can be masterfully done.

And there was another important change in Smythe's style. In the early cartoons the point of view is flexible: there are close-ups, the settings are shown from all angles. But later things get very regularised. All the settings – home, street, pub – are shown flat-on. All

It's a portrait of an eternal, intolerable, inescapable marriage. They bicker, they scheme, they row, they scrap, they walk out on each other, and they always come back

the views are medium-shot. All the action takes place on a single lateral plane, words and gestures thrown from side to side. What's more, bodies and heads are now depicted exclusively from front, back or in profile. When people turn, they flip through 90 or 180 degrees.

The effect is "functional", like switches flicked, creating a jerky, laconic farce. And this regularity allows one of Smythe's most satisfying devices – his "exit-lines", where in the final frame two characters, backs turned, suddenly jump into long-shot, toddling away down the street their feet kicked up behind them as if in a little dance. Flo and Rubie together, it usually is, Flo saying something wry or stoical.

But, as I say, I've never found it funny – and not for want of the recognition factor. Precisely because of it, Andy has always seemed obviously both nasty and pathetic. Take another of Smythe's deftly economical, recurring images: Andy dozing on couch, curled up foetally, face turned from the world. It is just frighteningly accurate. It kills the idea of Andy as a trickster-rogue, outwitting the system that wants to

make him work; his only alternative is to spend his days half-asleep. Or there's Andy bawling out Flo, his mouth suddenly yanked square-open when, for a moment, he finds his will frustrated. This is not lovable, it's all too true, and Flo's long-sufferingness is only a lying smile put on helplessness.

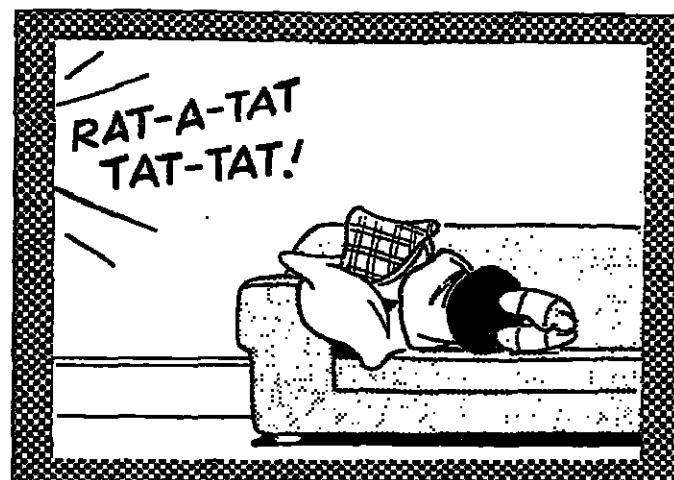
Which brings us to the touchiest point. Domestic abuse? Battered wife? Violence against women? Are these pertinent phrases? It's very elegant in its simplification, that cloud of dust with two hands and two feet flying out of it which stands for – or rather, which conceals by exaggerating – Andy's fights with Flo. And drawing it that way makes it look like a two-sided knockabout implying they're just a couple who love a scrap. But the truth isn't really disguised. An early one-framer has Flo dazed on the floor, wailing: "When we were courting you used to take your cap off before you hit me!" Or, mid-Seventies, Rubie asks Flo how she keeps her looks, and Flo answers (it's one of those exit-lines): "Constant care Rubie – I keep me mouth shut". Women ask for it or can expect it anyway.

I can see that such PC sensitivity risks being insensitive to form and to history. You could say: cartoons are not meant to be realism, there is the convention of slapstick, the invulnerability of cartoon characters is a conscious fantasy and actually a cheering one. Or – a different line of defence – what now looks like inappropriate humour on a taboo subject, was originally an injection of painful reality into the cartoon world.

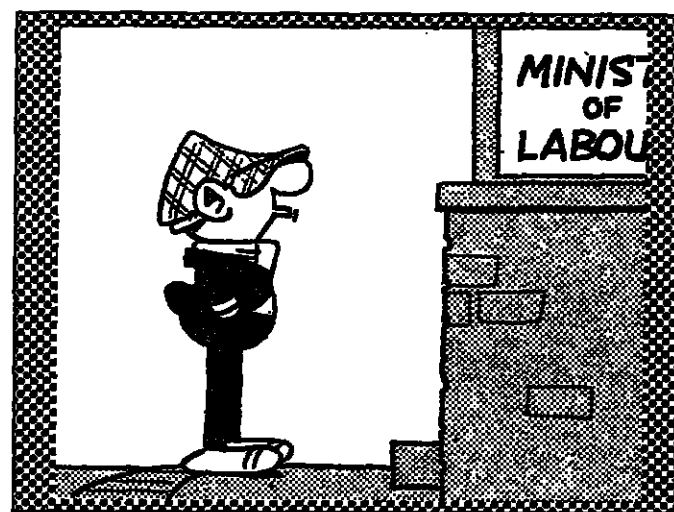
But we can't quite be happy with those get outs. The relationship between domestic abuse and slapstick is too close for comfort, because slapstick is just how domestic abuse often depicts and excuses itself – a few knocks, no harm done. As for reality: more than a comedy of recognition, Andy Capp has always been a comedy of acceptance too.

And eventually this wasn't accepted. Times did change, even in Capp-land. Just as Andy lost his flag in 1983 at considerable artistic cost, so at some point around then he stopped beating up Flo, though Capp scholarship hasn't traced the last strip in which that euphemistic cloud of dust appeared. But again the artistic loss seems great, which is really a tribute to Reg Smythe's cartoon, with its fine texture of truth and lies. He couldn't clean up his act without doing it harm.

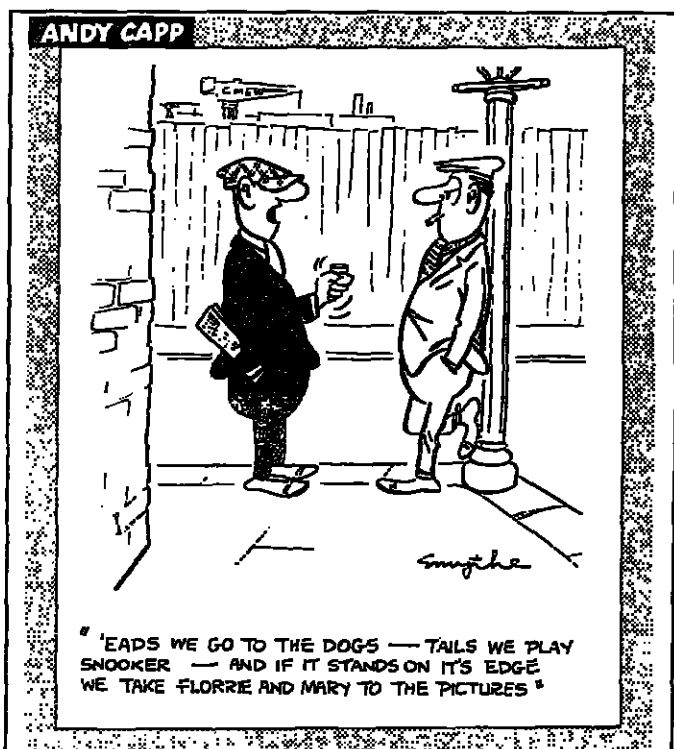
'Forty Years of Andy Capp': at the Bristol Museum & Art Gallery, Queens Road, Bristol: museum entry £2.50; to 7 August. Show tours (Birkenhead, Durham, Bangor, Stockton, King's Lynn et al) up to October 1999. Information: 01227 823127



Andy in a classic pose: on the couch



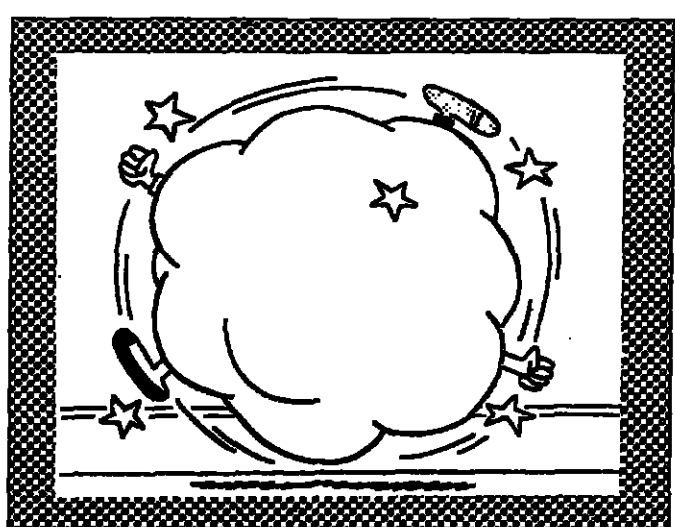
The cigarette profile



An early cartoon establishing the Capp philosophy



Andy's trademark shouting mouth



Marital conflict for Andy and Flo



A typical exit line

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Cutting edge: not sharp enough

THERE WAS a time when the New Contemporaries felt like the cutting edge. In recent years this annual talent cull from the graduates and final years of Britain's art colleges has thrown up such stars as Damien Hirst, Gillian Wearing, Sam Taylor-Wood and Christine Borland.

This year it felt like atrophy – the end of an era. Despite the appointment of critic Adrian Searle to the panel to chivy up the selection, it was lacking in passion or strong new voices, while there was plenty that was unoriginal, headline-grabbing and impetuous.

Take *Tuble*, a sculpture that's not posing as anything other than a long, plywood table – a minimalist mas-

terstroke or is the artist taking the piss? And *Untitled 1*, an off-white plaster larval formation that is trying its hardest to be utterly useless. Sculpture was salvaged by Caroline Ward's *Rabbits*, a pile of beautifully-moulded fibreglass footrests, inspiring equal parts of sentimental outrage and amusement.

Painting was well represented this year. Great if the painters were challenging existing hierarchies – but they weren't. Just regurgitated

and ultimately depressing realism in works such as *Paranoid Man* and *The Knockout Fishbar* and some sheepish attempts to address modern landscape, which was a common theme in the photography.

More psychological meat on video: Saki Satom's commuters running in *M Station* and Yasu Ichige's spectacular exhaustion of pent-up energy as he slams his Toyota into a wall, but there was an overall sense of déjà vu, especially in *The Sweet*

VISUAL ARTS

NEW CONTEMPORARIES
TEA FACTORY, LIVERPOOL
NWUK
CHISENHOLE GALLERY, LONDON

Smell of Success where two girls steal eggs, stuff them down their tights and then climb a tree so they smash. Far out!

Two of the NCs, Yasu Ichige and Washeem Khan (whose *No God*

Questions, a lo-fi installation combining footage of moving body parts with Stephen Hawking's voice which can be distorted as you interact with the classroom apparatus stood out as the only work that attempted to address conditioning in the electronic age) also appeared in New Work UK last week. The Chisenhole gallery's own new contemporaries.

Despite its snugly sarcastic title, Post Neo-Amateurism felt authen-

tic. The curators, UNIT, added the prefixes because they feel "amateurism is in danger of becoming a professional qualification".

The show is a take on late 20th centuryisms and an attempt to move trash art on to "a more complex condition".

Past-master amateurs Sarah Lucas and Bob and Roberta Smith can eat their heart out over Rowena Drigg's giant soft troll or Michelle Girth's do-it-yourself satellite learus.

More self-defeating humour was evidenced by Janice Kerbel's intricately documented but doomed-to-fail plan for robbing Courts and Co. Struggling in a sea of neurotic late 20th century neologisms, halfway between extreme post-modern irony and new seriousness, the NCs tend to attach themselves for their own safety to existing styles.

'New Contemporaries' at The Tea Factory, Wood Street, Liverpool, until 26 July and Camden Arts Centre from 7 August-20 September. NWUK at The Chisenhole Gallery, 64 Chisenhole Road, E3 until 26 July. Next week: Dirty Dessert
IMOGEN O'ROURKE

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JOHN WINDSOR'S GUIDE TO BUYING AFFORDABLE MODERN ART

Nicolas Moreton works in his studio Keith Dobney

WILL THE stone carver Nicolas Moreton succeed in showing his private parts in public places? That may sound coarse, but only British prudery can explain why none of his anatomically detailed figures has been bought by a municipal gallery, and why the 36-year-old Wolverhampton Polytechnic graduate has had only two public commissions.

These days, most sculpture is cast by foundries. Britons who attack stone with hammer and chisel can be counted on the fingers of one hand – Glynn Williams, Peter Randall-Page, Stephen Cox.

Moreton's work is observant, intense, and more to do with everyday life than that of many established names.

He says: "I've had so much trouble with sexuality. We should celebrate the wonders of nature. I'm dealing with the common currency of the human figure."

Perhaps things are changing. Milton Keynes commis-

sioned Moreton's *The Conversation* – a seated nude couple beside a pot of tea on a 6ft-tall table. It shows his characteristic mix of figurative and abstract: smooth, sensitively modelled torsos, stylised feet and abstract heads – the male's a penetrative axe shape, the woman's an up-turned, receptive vessel.

Moreton works in a tin-roofed barn near Northampton, where he has just finished a half-life-size, seven-breast-

ed *Earth*, to be priced at between £8,000 and £8,000. About £4,000 will buy a 2ft 6in carving that took him a month to make. Hand-held carvings start at £1,500.

Nicolas Moreton (01604 563947) shows at the Goldmark Gallery, Uppingham, Rutland. His work is in a group show at the Atkinson Gallery, Millfield, Street, Somerset (01458 442291) until 25 September

BEGINNING NEXT Saturday, *The Independent* is sponsoring the third Gallery Week, the country's largest national visual arts event. Organised by engage, the National Association for Gallery Education, which promotes wider understanding and enjoyment of the visual arts and crafts, the week will embrace nearly 400 galleries, arts centres and museums, with exhibitions as diverse as "Magic Carpet Storytelling" at the National

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Gallery to "Dreamcatching" in Dumfries. There will be late gallery openings, workshops, storytelling events, quizzes, poetry competitions and a huge number of projects that will let kids loose on art. Look out for special offers here in *The Independent*.
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HEALTH

Sufferers of MS have long campaigned for the drug to be legal for medicinal uses. Their goal may be in sight. By Jerome Burne

Why the GP may offer you cannabis

Once we only smoked it to get high; now it looks set to be a valued addition to the medicine cabinet. The announcement last week that marijuana might reduce stroke damage and protect against Alzheimer's is just the latest in a string of beneficial effects, recently uncovered by researchers. And there is undoubtedly more to come. Marijuana contains a rich cocktail of chemicals whose functions are only just being unravelled. Already research into its mechanisms has led to the discovery of a neurotransmitter system in the brain that was totally unexpected.

"What we have found so far suggests that cannabis could form the basis for an entirely new approach to pain," says Professor Howard Field of the University of California, San Francisco. In Britain Dr Geoffrey Guy, recently granted the first Home Office licence to grow and research cannabis, also believes that we have only just begun to tap its possible uses. "The next condition that is going to benefit is epileptic seizures," he predicts.

Until recently it was impossible to get funding to study cannabis unless you wanted to show how dangerous it was. But about 18 months ago, there was a sea change in the American research establishment's attitude, after the residents of California and Arizona voted to le-

This is startling in pharmacological terms. No other painkillers work so fast or at such low doses

galise marijuana for medical purposes.

The prestigious Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences performed a U-turn and began an investigation into the claims that marijuana was beneficial for a remarkable range of disorders, including glaucoma, pain, muscle spasm in Multiple Sclerosis and loss of appetite in AIDS patients. As a result cannabinoids – the chemicals in the plant that affect particular cells in the brain – have become a hot topic. In two weeks' time (July 23 to 25) an international conference in France on cannabinoids will be discussing why marijuana is emerging as such a panacea.

Meanwhile, in this country the BMA has thrown its considerable weight behind a campaign for the medical use of marijuana. This has encouraged the Home Office to grant Dr Guy his licence to grow marijuana for the purpose of research at a secret location in southern England and to run clinical trials. What he's discovered so far should change your way of looking at the humble joint for ever.

"Marijuana contains about 400 ac-



Those who have campaigned to legalise cannabis may soon be vindicated by new research that reveals its important medicinal properties

David Swanborough

tive chemicals," says Dr Guy, founder of GW Pharmaceuticals. "The conventional drug company approach to medicinal plants is to extract a single active ingredient, which in this case is generally assumed to be one known as THC, but this is very short-sighted."

In evidence he recently presented to the House of Lords Committee on cannabis Dr Guy explained that THC – "the one that gets you high" – was just one of 60 cannabinoids that can affect receptors in the brain. "In addition to them, the

plant's essential oils have a range of valuable properties – anti-fungal, anti-bacterial and anti-inflammatory." Despite all this potent activity, cannabis has the startlingly unusual property of being incredibly safe. The difference between a therapeutic dose and a deadly one is 40,000. By comparison, the figure for aspirin is 25, while morphine is 50.

For now, Dr Guy is looking at the cannabinoids, particularly CBD, the one found to protect the brain after a stroke by mopping up dangerous free radicals. He believes it will

also be useful in treating epileptic seizures. "It's only in the past year that we have been able to separate it from its close relative CBC, so now we can begin to study it properly."

But one of the most dramatic medicinal effects of cannabis is the way it stops the pain of muscle spasms that come with MS, against which conventional opiate-based painkillers are useless. Literally a few puffs on a joint can bring relief. "This is startling in pharmacological terms," says Dr Guy. "No other painkillers work that fast or at such

low doses." The latest American research into where cannabinoids work in the brain is beginning to unravel what's going on.

For over 30 years we've known that the brain has its own pain-control system that uses natural chemicals called endorphins. Morphine is a painkiller because it taps into that system. There are other systems, such as the one based on serotonin, controlling mood. Now it turns out there is a system that cannabinoids can manipulate.

"We now know there are two

sorts of cannabinoid receptor – CB1 and CB2", says Professor Steven Childers of Wake Forest University school of medicine in Winston Salem, New Connecticut. "CB1 is found all over the brain while CB2 is found in the body, especially in the immune system. No one would ever have predicted that receptors for marijuana would exist in such high quantities."

What's revealing is where these receptors are found in the brain. "Motor systems are packed with them," Childers continues. "This

may partly explain why cannabis is said to help with the muscle spasms of Multiple Sclerosis."

But it is pain control that is creating the most excitement. And all this may have a decisive effect on the wider drug culture. Increasingly, proper trials are showing that whole plant extracts are as effective, with fewer side effects than the synthesised "active ingredient". If Dr Guy's trials come up with the results, that could lead to a big change in the sort of pills we are prescribed. And that's really heavy man.

Men from Mars, women from Venus – theory lost in space

I HAVE never heard a parent say: "Astoundingly similar, my little ones – if you hadn't seen them in the bath, you would never know they are of different sexes." But I have heard most parents – including feminists, lesbians and New Men – express amazement at how different from each other boys and girls are.

Despite decades of feminism and post-feminism, these differences are profound and enduring. Whilst women have become more like men in some respects, and to a much lesser extent, men more like women, there are still huge differences between the adults, which was the subject of a three part Channel 4 series, *Why Men Don't Iron*, written by Ann and Bill Moir, which finished last week.

If nothing else, the Moirs are to be congratulated for raising the question, but it is a shame they did not devote more of their available time to answering it. Around three-quarters of each programme was devoted to showing merely that we are different; only one quarter was devoted to why.

Having established the behavioural differences, it was shown that brains differ as well. The genders have different key chemicals and concentrations, and types of receptor sites.

Confronted by such evidence

of physical brain differences, many people assume that they are caused physically and genetically. Indeed, I suspect that many "experts" do so.

I recall an embarrassing exchange I once had with a consultant research neuropsychiatrist at a dinner party. He regaled me with evidence that brain chemistry in depressives had been demonstrated to be different from that of the un-depressed. He confidently asserted that this depression is caused by genes.

I made the obvious enough rejoinder that the differences in the brains could just as well have been caused by years of abuse or adverse social conditions, as by genes – that the way people relate to you or your circumstances could affect what happened in your brain. The embarrassing thing was that he had clearly never even considered this possibility, and yet he was a highly paid high-flyer at a premium research centre of brain study.

The Moirs have become aware of this possibility, although it was not always thus. In 1995, Ann Moir made a film about the biological causes of individual differences in violence which might have been written by the neuropsychiatrist. Despite being well produced, it largely ignored,

or was ignorant of, the overwhelming evidence that violence (unlike stealing) has little or no biological or genetic basis, and that differences between violent and non-violent brains are caused by parenting and social inequality. At least this time she did seem aware of the existence of social factors.

About every 15 minutes throughout the series, a one-sentence disclaimer appeared in the script stating that they have a substantial influence on gender differences. That virtually no effort was made to elaborate on this could be excusable. I know all too well that a great deal has to be left out of science documentaries in the service of entertainment and coherence.

But having devoted about three-quarters of each programme to establishing that the genders are different, the Moirs were running out of time. The only explanation, when it came, was biological.

It boiled down to the fact that males are exposed to more testosterone in the womb than females, but the evidence for the complex interpretations and speculations were thin.

In essence, there were two points. First, it was claimed that girls exposed to unusually high levels of testosterone in the womb showed greater

BRITAIN ON THE COUCH



OLIVER JAMES

Most women are still attracted to high-achieving male hunks and most men still fancy Spice Girls

masculinity and therefore, that prenatal exposure causes gender-linked behaviour. The doubts about these studies (see pages 140-55 in *Gender Identity Disorder* by EJ Zucker et al, Guildford Press 1995) were not mentioned. Nor was the possibility that such abnormal cases do not necessarily tell us anything about normal people.

Similar claims (and absence of doubts) and extrapolations were made from the evidence that boys who had been exposed to unusually high levels of female

hormones in the womb were more "female". Added to this, a single study was described, showing a "correlation" (they did not say whether it was statistically significant) between prenatal testosterone levels and the degree of masculine behaviour at the age of seven.

Taken all together, this supposedly "proved" that brain differences and gender behaviour were determined by levels of pre-natal hormones.

Second, mention was made of differences in the "architecture" (ie structures that have different shapes or sizes, rather than activity) of brains. Unfortunately, the only example given was that the bit of brain which links the two hemispheres is larger in women. Even the Moirs admitted that it was essentially a speculation to claim that this explained why men are more spatially, and women more verbally, talented.

That was about it. Perhaps it was all the Moirs had in their locker. The list of alternative, competing theories is too long to consider here in detail, but it is worth mentioning a few of them.

The Moirs' heavy reliance on the casual role of prenatal testosterone would have been shown up for the speculation that it is, by presenting the extensive evidence that this hormone's

levels are highly sensitive to social status (see *Social Structure and Testosterone* by TD Kemper, Rutgers Univ Press, 1990). The same is true of brain chemicals such as serotonin and cortisol; all rise and fall according to one's relative dominance or subordination within hierarchies.

There is also abundant evidence that childhood experiences, such as abuse and inconsistent child care, both change and set levels of brain chemistry.

Being accorded a low status and adverse childhood experiences has profound effects on all the aspects of the brain considered by the Moirs. They could easily explain all, or most of, the laboriously established sex differences, because most women today have a lower status than men in many respects, and even the Moirs accept that parents treat offspring differently according to their sex.

But despite my reservations, I still found the series challenging, and worth the candle.

In history, there has never been a time when men and women were in a more rancorous relationship with each other – unprecedentedly dismissive, humiliating and mocking. This is undoubtedly due in part to the gap between

the politically correct version of how we would like to be and the reality of how we behave.

There is a mountain of evidence that most women are still attracted to traditionally high-achieving male hunks and that most men still fancy Spice Girls, however much they deny it.

Both sides pay lip service to the contrary, but the fact is that when women have babies, the great majority give up work all together (72 per cent of under-one-year-olds have a mother who does no work, 60 per cent of under-three-year-olds) and fathers are liable to get depressed if their partner works while children are small.

Anything gets my vote that confronts us with the contradiction between these realities of how we behave, as against how we feel it ought to be. Our lack of awareness is making us terribly unhappy, and for all its one-sidedness, uncritical over-estimation of a few studies and speculative ideology dressed up as science, the series did help to expose this.

It did not explain to my satisfaction why little boys and girls so resolutely defy their parents' best efforts at political rectitude, or why adults are still so different. But at least it asked the right questions.

An unkind – and unnecessary – cut

Circumcision for moral health or religious identity is not only needless but unethical. By Rob Stepney

WE ARE NOT talking to a child. From any perspective, the foreskin is a sensitive piece of anatomy. At a symposium in Oxford early next month, academics and campaigners drawn from California to Tel Aviv will argue that almost all male circumcision is unethical, unnecessary, and potentially unlawful.

Almost half of the circumcisions carried out in the UK are performed on Muslim and Jewish infants as a religious requirement. And the Board of Deputies of British Jews' response to the announcement of the Oxford conference has been robust. "No proper symposium presents only one point of view, and the absence of any mainstream Jewish perspective makes it a sham," said a spokesman.

The title of the meeting – "the Fifth International Symposium on Sexual Mutilations" – leaves the organisers' abhorrence in little doubt. Perhaps use of the term "mutilation" is emotional overkill. But the removal of the foreskin is undeniably a form of amputation. And it can clearly leave psychological as well as physical scars.

Michael, a 35-year-old professional living in London, was born into a Jewish family. As commanded in the Genesis account of the covenant between God and Abraham, he was circumcised eight days after birth. And as subsequently commanded by religious authorities, there was no anaesthetic. "I never had the choice to be an intact male without scarred genitalia," he says.

"It's hard to see how a mother who has prayed for a healthy child is able to hand that baby over to have part of its penis cut away. The first experience from my genitals was pain, not comfort or pleasure. Circumcision gave me a religious identity, but the irony is that because it was done in the name of religion I have turned away from that faith."

Religion has not been the only source of circumcision. An influential 19th-century view was that since a boy plays with his foreskin during masturbation, the best means of prevention is to remove it. Allied to that argument were considerations of cleanliness.

It was this entirely secular line of reasoning which led to the circumcision of Brian, aged 58, an architect living in Kent. But his feeling of hav-

ing been needlessly scarred is no less strong. "The prevailing upper-middle-class view at the time was that circumcision would encourage physical hygiene," he says. "At prep school, many other boys had been circumcised, but there were also those who had not. We assumed at first that we had been born one way or the other. But when I found out what had really happened, I felt very deeply that I'd been deprived of something, and have envied the intact penis ever since." Brian's desire to restore what once was his has led him to embark on a three-year-long programme of gradually stretching what skin remains, encouraging the growth of cells and gradually forming a new foreskin. "It's painless, but requires determination."

'It's hard to see how a mother is able to hand her baby over to have part of its penis cut away'

Circumcision to encourage hygiene and moral health is now unfashionable in this country. But health and aesthetic considerations still dominate attitudes to the infant penis in the United States, where the clean cut is still part of the American Way. Sixty per cent of American males are without a foreskin, compared with 6 per cent in the UK.

Even so, around 30,000 circumcisions are performed on NHS patients in Britain each year ostensibly on medical grounds. "In about two-thirds of these cases there is no real medical need for the operation," says Steve Donnell, a senior registrar in surgery at the Alder Hey Children's Hospital in Liverpool.

The most frequent reason given is to correct phimosis, a condition in which the foreskin cannot be pulled back from the head of the penis. "Most boys are born with a foreskin that will not retract," says Mr Donnell. "This changes as part of normal development. The foreskin may become retractable in one boy at the age of five, and in another ten years later, but in almost all cases it will

happen eventually, and well should be left alone," he advises.

The only time when circumcision is mandatory is for a disease called balanitis xerotica obliterans, when scarring under the foreskin can spread to the head of the penis and the urethra, but this condition will develop in only 1 per cent of men in the course of a lifetime.

But if the majority of medical circumcisions do not benefit the patient, then they should not be done. This is the view of Professor Margaret Somerville, at the McGill University Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law in Montreal. "I've perhaps been slow to criticise something done by people I know and respect. But when I analysed the practice, I came to the strong conclusion that infant male circumcision carried out for non-medical and non-religious reasons was unethical," says Professor Somerville.

"I think we shouldn't do it for religious reasons either, but you have to take into account the harm that might be done by its prohibition."

Under English common law and the Canadian Criminal Code, any wounding without therapeutic intent and without the informed consent of the person concerned is also a criminal assault.

It is an axiom that good ethics is based on good facts, and certain discoveries about the consequences of circumcision have only recently been made.

Only two years ago, Dr John Taylor and colleagues at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada, reported a detailed study of foreskin samples taken post mortem. They found that the inner surface of the foreskin contains a wealth of nerves and touch receptors (similar to those of the fingertips and lips) making it an important component of the overall sensory apparatus of the penis.

Compared with the complexity of foreskin tissue, the head of the penis itself was seen to be primitive in its sense organs.

Christopher Price, a retired solicitor with a special interest in international law and human rights, strongly opposes all non-therapeutic circumcision, including the routine infant circumcision practised in the US and the ritual circumcision required by religion.



For some, it is an important part of their faith: a boy is circumcised at a mosque in Istanbul

Imkai

"Personal autonomy and the right to bodily integrity lie at the heart of medical ethics and English and international law. Informed consent or a compelling need in terms of the individual's benefit are required before these rights can be violated," he argues. "In the case of infant circumcision, the lawfulness of consent depends on its being in the child's best interests. Those advocating ritual circumcision say that it is indeed in the child's best interests, that

adherence to the tradition allows him to be assimilated into the group to which he belongs, and they cite legal assertions of freedom of religion in defence."

And this is the case. A spokesman for the Board of Deputies said: "The United Nations convention on the rights of the child upholds the right of a religion's identity, and that seems to be the key here."

In response, Christopher Price points to the Children Act of 1989

which states that the welfare of the child is paramount in any decision concerning its upbringing. "It's a central tenet of international law that one person exercising his freedom does not interfere with another person's rights. To justify circumcision, you have to argue that it does no harm. In fact, the medical evidence is that it is a profoundly damaging procedure," he says. "And if a man believed that his circumcision had been carried out not in his best in-

terests but in those of his parents, it is possible that a civil claim for damages could arise."

Elsewhere that assertion is regarded with scepticism. As the spokesman for the Board of Deputies pointed out, if this was the case, then we would surely already have seen a flood of litigation.

The fifth International Symposium on Sexual Mutilations takes place in Oxford from 5 to 7 August

How to beat jet lag with just a little light relief

It can be the bane of the long-distance traveller, but there are ways to handle time-zone blues. By Eleanor Bailey

"COMING BACK from Vancouver recently, I really suffered," says John Peach, a 32-year-old company accountant. "I didn't go to work for three days but, even then, I didn't feel part of things. My head knew it was morning, but it didn't feel like that. I could barely talk. I felt depressed and could not concentrate on figures. I was consumed by sleep all afternoon. At night, I felt very tired but I wasn't really sleepy. I would wake up at three in the morning. I took me more than a week to stop thinking upside down. Makes you wonder whether it's worth going on holiday."

Sounds familiar? With more people travelling longer distances for shorter periods, jet lag is a growing issue in our lives. A 1994 survey of New Zealand flight attendants found that jet lag affected almost everyone: 90 per cent felt over-tired, 53 per cent felt disoriented, 94 per cent felt a lack of energy, 32 per cent had swollen limbs, 70 per cent were more likely than usual to get an infection because of decreased immunity.

Quite simply, we are physically and mentally weakened. Work by Dr Jim Waterhouse, Lecturer in Sociology at the Research Institute of Exercise and Sports Science at Liverpool John Moores University, has shown that a travelling athlete has up to 25 per cent less strength in his legs after crossing several time zones.

So what can you do? Melatonin is the most controversial – yet very popular – remedy. Melatonin is a sleep-inducing hormone which the body naturally produces at the end of its day. When a traveller is jet-lagged, melatonin is still being produced at their customary bedtime, with the result that he or she feels tired during the day and not sleepy at bedtime.

Melatonin capsules, unlicensed in the UK but easily available in the US, are a synthetic replacement of the natural hormone. You should take it a few hours before bedtime in the new time zone to produce sleepiness. Dr Waterhouse says: "The evidence suggests that melatonin, used correctly, does work, but we don't know the long-term effects, and there is little money going into research."

Less controversial, but a bit more taxing, is light therapy. This works on the theory that the internal body clock is heavily connected to daylight and darkness, for evolutionary reasons. When you arrive in the US, it may be 2am as far as your body is concerned; bright daylight makes your body begin to adjust to the new time.

Steve Hayes, director of Outside In, a Cambridge company producing light therapy products, says: "You need to work out when your body clock thinks a new day has begun (the reset point). Typically, this is three and a half hours before you normally wake up. If you are travelling west, you would translate this reset point to the destination time. Create a two-hour period in bright light for yourself before that reset point, followed by a two-hour period of darkness. Do the opposite when travelling east. It can shift your body clock by four hours a day, four times more than normal." If no natural sunlight is available, Outside In produces a Light Visor (£35 for two weeks' hire) which can be plugged in to re-create natural daylight in your hotel room.

There is, too, a psychological angle. Some people suffer more from jet lag than others. Routine-obsessed control freaks come off the worst. "If you are the kind who needs their teddy bear and the bed facing the right way, and insists on eight hours with a rigid bedtime,"



Crossing continents too quickly can play havoc with your internal body clock and leave you exhausted and depressed

says Dr Waterhouse, "then it will be harder. If you are naturally flexible it will be easier to adjust."

"Destination scheduling" means that you start living in the new time zone as soon as you board the aircraft. Dismiss the old time from your mind. Eat to the new time zone. Use dark sunglasses or eye pads to simulate darkness. If it is daytime at your destination, but night on the plane, walk up and down the aisles, keep your light on, and watch the film.

Many people think that jet lag is worse if you are going east.

"When you arrive in the east, you have a short day," says Dr David O'Connell, author of *Jetlag: How to Beat It*. "Everyone's getting ready to go to bed, which is very disorienting."

Strictly, jet lag is body clock confusion – the body continues to re-

duce adrenaline, produce melatonin and fall in temperature when it thinks it is bedtime, but dehydration, swollen limbs, unpleasant food, cramped conditions and the person snoring next to you will all make you feel bad, even if you are not crossing time zones.

So drink plenty of water; avoid alcohol, stretch frequently, and hit the snooze next to you if he or she makes too much noise.

Also, try to get as much rest as you can before you go. Do not exhaust yourself beforehand thinking that it will make it easier to sleep on the plane. It will not. And if you want to try something really complicated, there is always the Anti-Jet Lag Diet, developed by Dr Charles Ehret of the US Energy Centre at the Argonne National Laboratory.

This diet involves eating carbo-

hydrates and sugary, "sleepy" foods near the new bedtime, and "energetic", high-protein foods when you want to be awake. There is an alternating schedule of feast and fast days, with a two-hour daily caffeine drinking slot. It may work, but then, jet lag itself may be less of a burden. If you expect to suffer, you will do. Alternatively, travel by very slow boat, and avoid the problem altogether.

Outside In can be contacted on 01954 211955

To work out your personal 'jet lag' calculator contact the website: www.outsidein.co.uk. For a full anti-jet lag diet programme look up: www.lib.ci.tucson.az.us/FAQ/jetlag.htm

Jetlag: How To Beat It by Dr David O'Connell is published by Ascendant Publishing at £11.99

Alternative few would choose

LIKE ALL health reporters, I get a lot of books sent to me – the vast majority promoting some new (or not so new) alternative therapy. You know the sort of thing. *Why Zebras Don't Get Ulcers* (a guide to stress), *The Nine Myths of Ageing*, and *Yoga for Pregnancy* are three of the latest. Most go straight on the pile under my desk, unopened, awaiting the recycling bin.

Last week, however, a book arrived that stopped me in my tracks. It is called *The Golden Fountain: The Complete Guide to Urine Therapy*. It is by a Dutchman, Coen Van Der Kroon, who is pictured cheerfully raising a glass of the stuff, and recommends drinking, washing in and massaging the waste product into the skin. Alarming, it carries a quotation from *The Independent* on its cover which describes the book as "the urophile's bible".

I looked this quotation up and found that it comes from a piece by Dr Phil Hammond, the former *Independent* columnist, in which he lists a number of the claimed benefits for urine therapy concluding with "... and in Germany they have sold 100,000 copies of the urophile's bible, *The Golden Fountain*". Thus is a dull fact turned into a citation.

The claims made for the curative powers of urine are indeed impressive. A woman reported that her chilblains were cured by soaking her feet in her own urine. A builder described the practice of construction workers who pee on their hands at the end of the day to ease roughness and callouses. An HIV-positive man described how urine therapy had healed lesions inside his mouth and on his skin.

The index lists six pages of conditions for which urine therapy is said to be effective, from acne to varicose veins, but oddly does not include jellyfish stings.

Now I have always been in favour of alternative medicine. The armies of therapists whose ranks have swelled so dramatically in the last decade provide essential support to the beleaguered NHS by offering suc-

HEALTH CHECK



JEREMY LAURANCE

cour to the worried well, leaving the orthodox doctors to do what they have been trained to do – cure disease.

But it worries me that a book like this tests the credulity of the public to the limit. Like iridology, crystal therapy and Bach flower remedies, the idea of washing your hair in your own urine and then injecting it as a cancer cure may be a step too far. If public scepticism is primed by barmy claims such as these, it may take only one ordinary person to step forward and declare the emperor naked to bring the whole edifice of alternative medicine tumbling down.

That would be a pity. Alternative medicine has done orthodox medicine a service by reminding doctors of the power of care. The consultations are lengthy, detailed and personal. The therapists make it their business to listen, understand and offer support – the soothing hand on the brow.

The appeal of alternative medicine is linked to the amount of time available to patients, the use of touch, the magical qualities surrounding the practitioner and conviction in the method of healing. Growing demand in Britain and around the world in the last decade shows that what matters to patients is results, not scientific explanations. Magic is acceptable if it accomplishes what is promised.

But the crankier the claims, the greater the jeopardy in which the whole enterprise is placed.

Nature's way of tackling the menopause

Women with misgivings about hormone replacement therapy can take advantage of a number of alternative remedies – including soya. By Roger Dobson

Janet Balaskas always makes sure she eats some kind of soya every day. Whether it comes in milk, tofu, tempeh or any other form, soya has been part of her diet since she went into the menopause. The 52-year-old author and proponent of natural childbirth is one of a growing number of women who have opted to use natural diets and remedies rather than hormone replacement therapy (HRT) for menopausal symptoms.

"I am a great believer that women's bodies are perfectly made for all the stages of their reproductive cycle," says Ms Balaskas. "Our bodies know how to give birth, and it seems to me that my body also has the wisdom to be able to get through the menopause. It is natural that the hormonal status changes, and I don't want to try to simulate an earlier stage in my life by replacing hormones."

Thanks largely to advances in public health, medicine, and social conditions, a middle-aged woman in Britain at the end of the 20th century can expect to be post-menopausal for a third of her life. While some women go through the menopause with only a few problems, others are plagued by symptoms caused by the drop in natural oestrogen production, including hot flushes, lack of concentration, night sweats, insomnia, mood changes and tiredness. The also have an increased risk of heart disease and osteoporosis, and may suffer vaginal dryness.

There is little doubt that HRT, first used in the Sixties, is highly effective at relieving menopausal symptoms, but it has also been linked to side-effects, including an elevated incidence of breast cancer, as well as an increased risk of blood clots and vascular problems, gall stones, depression and mood changes.

The lobby in favour of alternatives says that many women do not need the high levels of hormones in HRT and they argue that, for too long, doctors have treated the menopause as an illness, with HRT as the cure.

"It's not an illness, it's a natural state of a woman's life," says Dr Marilyn Glenville, author of *Natural Alternatives to HRT*. "But many doctors regard it as an illness caused by falling levels of hormones. We are therefore seen as suffering from a hormone deficiency disease and, by supplying us with HRT, we can be cured. In fact, these symptoms can be prevented by adjusting what we eat and by taking the right nutrients."

In the wake of concern about the side effects of HRT, there is now a growing industry in supplements and alternative therapies. Most, like soya and soya supplements, are based on plants and compounds that contain natural hormones.

One of the attractions of soya is that it is rich in genistein and daidzein, two phytoestrogens. These compounds have a significant oestrogenic effect and are thought

to regulate the hormonal balance in women. It has also been claimed that they help prevent osteoporosis, and new research suggests that taking a soya supplement for three months can halve the numbers of hot flushes that menopausal women suffer.

"Women taking soya had a 26 per cent reduction in the number of hot flushes by week three, and a 33 per cent reduction by week four. We concluded that 60g of soya protein added to the daily diet substantially

reduces the risk of hot flushes," says Dr Paola Albertazzi, who carried out the research, at the University of Ferrara in Italy.

The reputation of soya has been enhanced, too, by the experiences of women in Asian countries, where soya is a staple part of the diet. Fewer than 25 per cent of Japanese menopausal women complain of hot flushes, for instance, compared to 85 per cent in the US and the UK.

Furthermore, Japanese women who eat a traditional diet have a low incidence of oestrogen-dependent tumours, including breast cancer.

"Soya beans also contain more protein than milk, without the saturated fat or cholesterol. They are the

only beans considered to be a complete protein because they contain all eight essential amino acids. Soya is also high in essential fatty acids," says Dr Glenville.

Janet Balaskas says that her first instinct when she went into the menopause was to try natural solutions: "Apart from the soya, I found that acupuncture and herbal remedies help, too."

The range of alternative therapies available and the numbers of plants producing oestrogen-like compounds is huge, as Stephen Terras, the technical director of Solgar, one of the biggest suppliers of vitamins and supplements, points out.

"They are not licensed drugs, but many compounds and nutrients have the capacity of exerting an oestrogen-like effect on the body. Although they do not mimic the strength of HRT, they may well exert the positive effects without the risks of side effects. It is wrong to say they are a direct replacement, but then not everyone requires hormones in such a concentrated drug form as HRT," he says.

Dong quai, or Chinese angelica, is also a popular alternative to HRT, particularly in the US. Wild yam cream, said to be rich in progesterone, is another alternative therapy and is used for increasing bone density. It is also reckoned to have beneficial effects on depression.

Other natural treatments include sepiolite (the ink of cuttlefish), bushmaster snake venom, liquorice root and sulphur. Homeopathic remedies for vaginal dryness include iron phosphate, black lead and common salt.

For many women, the dilemma is in weighing up the advantages of HRT against the side-effects. On the plus side are the reports of a 30 to 40 per cent drop in hip fractures and reduction of up to 50 per cent in heart disease among those who take it. But on the downside there are suggestions that the risk of breast cancer increases by 15 to 40 per cent after long term use of oestrogen therapy, and that the risk of uterine cancer goes up sixfold.

The alternative remedies case is that many of the symptoms of menopause can be tackled with natural plant hormones, and therefore most women do not need to undergo the risks of HRT. Dr Glenville says menopausal women would also be helped if there were a change in the way the menopause is regarded: "In our society the focus of the menopause is on loss – the loss of periods, the loss of ability to create life, the loss of hormones, and the losses that come with empty-nest syndrome."

Instead, she says, more positive images of post-menopausal life should be promoted, with the emphasis on renewal, and on the freedom from the worry of contraception, and the freedom to make changes in lifestyle. Post-menopausal zest is, she says, within the grasp of every woman.

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Children decked out in clothing that protects them against ultra-violet rays

North News

There really is no such thing as a safe tan

The longer white skin is exposed to the sun in youth, the greater the chance of skin cancer. By Heather Welford

MY DAUGHTER'S friends – aged between 11 and 13 – are comparing tans at the moment. They talk about one of their number, currently on holiday in Majorca. "Bet she comes back lovely and brown," they say glumly. Their perfectly normal, northern European skins seem dull and boring. The glamour of the golden, and highly unnatural, tan reigns supreme.

"We've found that kids start to want to look brown from the age of about eight. They think a tan looks healthy," says Dean Mahoney of the Health Education Authority (HEA). Yet, as 95 per cent of adults now know, according to recent research published by the HEA, there are serious risks attached to the sun. New skin cancer cases in the United Kingdom have risen to 40,000 a year, and there are 2,000 deaths annually. We know that the rise is directly related to the increase in our exposure to the sun, starting in childhood.

The skin is at its most vulnerable to damage throughout childhood and the teenage years. There is really no such thing as a safe tan. The longer white skin is exposed to the sun in youth, the greater the chance of skin cancer developing in later life. The two main forms of skin cancer relate to two separate factors – the number of episodes of sunburn, which increases the risk of melanoma cancer, and the cumulative amount of time spent in the sun.

"Parents know that sunscreen offers protection," says Mr Mahoney, "but it's only part of the story. Wearing the right clothing is important, with sunscreen on the bits of skin that show."

In fact, the *British Medical Journal* opined a couple of summers ago that sunscreen could

even increase skin cancer risk, as it gives a false sense of safety. Slap it on, and you think that you or your children are OK to stay in the sun for hours.

The HEA aims to promote "responsible marketing" in the sunscreen trade, and wants to see products promoted without emphasising tanning. The advertisements they like show children playing in the shade with hats and T-shirts on.

'We've introduced a legionnaire-style hat to the school uniform – it's got a peak and a flap to protect the neck'

A flick through current magazines, however, shows a different story. An advertisement for Nivea Sun's children's sunblock, for example, shows a hatless, shirtless, golden-skinned blond moppet being cuddled by his equally tanned mum. Mr Mahoney says the HEA also has a gripe with the travel trade, whose brochures consistently idealise the deeply-bronzed happy family, gambling in the full glare of the sun.

This summer, the HEA has also targeted schools, advising them to move sports events to the late afternoon, and to provide shaded areas in the playground. Wrexham's St Mary's Primary School, with 360 pupils aged three to 11, is one of a growing number of schools to take sun awareness seriously,

helped provide a pergola, with trellises and plants, to make an attractive, shaded place for the children to use when they're outside."

The school has worked with the Wrexham Science Festival on the project, and they've established Internet links with schools in Australia and South Africa to find out more about practical protection.

It is certainly true that kids of primary school age and above are more difficult to protect in the sun. You can make sure your toddler wears a hat and a top on the beach, and gets lathered in sunscreen at regular intervals. But older boys and girls do not want their style cramped by wearing a T-shirt all the time, and they soon get fed up with nagging to apply their sunscreen.

One answer could be to make protective clothing as trendy as a tan – and that is what Anne Stoddart, from Dumfries, aims to do with her home-based import business. Ms Stoddart is the UK agent for Australian-made Fun Sun Wear,

made of lightweight lycra that screens out 98 per cent of UV radiation. The gear – shorts, tops, hats and wetsuit-style all-in-ones – is made in a range of eye-popping colours and prints, from baby sizes to adults. "We're selling a lot of the suits to young surfers and cyclists," she says. The range was developed by a cyclewear manufacturer whose own mother survived skin cancer and needed high protection sports clothing. "I spotted them in Australia two years ago," says Ms Stoddart, "and I saw their potential for the UK."

It is not just skin that needs protection. There is also an increasing concern from the experts about eye health. "It's certainly possible that constant exposure to the sun can cause longer-term damage, such as the formation of cataracts," says dispensing optician Eric Hall, member of the Eyecare Information Service. "Children with pale blue or green eyes are at particular risk. He recommends shading the eyes with a visor or peaked cap, and/or wearing sunglasses with an adequate UV filtration. Currently, spectacles meeting minimum standards for eye protection carry the British Standard number 2724. They do not have to be hugely expensive. The HEA's 'Sun Know How' catalogue has some good value specs which meet the British Standard, at just £4.65. It also provides a range of cover-up clothing. Fun Sun Wear (01387 269323), HEA Sun Know How (01225 867711).

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

SPHERE CONSULTANTS LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of Creditors of the above named Company will be held at 7, Kew Road, London W8 5NF on 15th July 1998 at 11.00am for the purpose mentioned in Section 98 of the said Act. Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of account at the registered office, 7, Kew Road, London W8 5NF, not later than 12.00 noon on 14th July 1998. For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is required (unless he surrenders his security) to lodge at 7, Kew Road, London W8 5NF, before the meeting, a statement giving particulars of his security, the date when it was given and the value at which it is assessed. Notice is further given that a list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at 7, Kew Road, London W8 5NF, between 10.00am and 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above. Dated this 7th of July 1998. By Order of the Board: R.G. PANTON, Director



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SICK NOTES

BY WILLIAM HARTSTON

A NEW magazine has been launched to promote the interests of human beings who volunteer to be subjects in medical experiments.

Guinea Pig Zero has been founded by Robert Helms, a 40-year-old Philadelphia who gave up his job as a union representative for health care workers to be a full-time professional guinea-pig. A healthy, average white male, 5ft 9in, 155lb, with hazel eyes and brown hair, he prides himself on being an ideal lab rat. His magazine includes case studies of people who have suffered from experiments and monitors how well hospitals care for their rights and safety.

AT LEAST 13 Brazilian women have become pregnant after a confusion over contraceptive pills. Up to two tons of placebo pills are believed to have made their way to Brazilian consumers after disappearing in January. Containing no ingredient more potent than flour, these had been

manufactured by the German pharmaceutical group Schering AG to test a new packaging machine. They had been given to another company for destruction, but somehow reappeared in Brazil.

ACCORDING to a study at the University of Washington, people are just as likely to suffer cardiac arrest in the afternoon as in the early morning. Many previous studies had shown that around dawn is a peak time for heart attacks – possibly because natural body chemicals that stimulate the heart are at a peak in the early morning – but the new research identifies another peak between 5pm and 8pm.

THE JOURNAL Pediatrics reports a case of a Canadian boy who was

raised as a girl after his penis was irreparably damaged during circumcision. Now aged 27, he continues to live as a woman. This is only the second documented case of gender reassignment. In the only other case, first studied in 1973, the subject decided to return to life as a boy at age 14. The Canadian, however, has adjusted to life as a woman, but the gender-reassignment operation in her case was performed at seven months, as opposed to 21 months in the earlier one. The case supports a view that while sexual orientation is determined in the uterus, gender identity develops only after birth.

IF YOU drink, don't dive. That is the new message to holiday-makers following an increase in the number of injuries to people diving into

swimming-pools. "People tend to think of motorbike accidents or falls as being the cause of spinal injuries and the last thing they expect is something like that to happen on holiday," said Peter Edmond, who is clinical director of the Queen Elizabeth Spinal Injuries Unit at the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow. Diving into a pool, without first thinking and checking the depth of the water, is now at the top of the sporting spinal injuries list. "The impact can quite easily break the neck or upper spine, causing paralysis or even death," Mr Edmond said.

WHEN THE electricity was cut off at the Khmelnytsky maternity hospital in central Ukraine, emergency procedures were put into operation. Reuters reports a case of a Ukrainian woman giving birth to a boy under the glare of the headlights of a car that had been driven up to the windows of the delivery room.

MEDIA

The magazine that ruled the world

The strange life
and times of
The New Yorker.
By Paul McCann

A medium-sized foreign magazine is struggling for survival. So why does it generate so much interest?

When Tina Brown left the editorship of *The New Yorker* last week, the story made the front pages of newspapers all over the world. Commentators, columnists and the literati felt the need to opine on Ms Brown's six years at the helm. For those outside the global media village, the question "so what?" might have seemed a suitable response.

The "what" is in fact much more than Tina Brown, a woman whose marriage, looks and successes have made her the most bitched-about journalist of her generation. Instead, the importance of the story is generated by the magazine itself, for *The New Yorker's* influence on post-war art and journalism is, in the end, worthy of the coverage.

The magazine was started in February 1925 as the house journal of the Vicious Circle - Dorothy Parker's Algonquin Hotel gathering of drinkers and wits such as Peter Benchley and Alexander Woolcott, who felt themselves to be the cultural elite.

Harold Ross, the magazine's founding editor, was a member of the Vicious Circle and used a loan from a wealthy friend, Raoul Fleischmann, to set up the magazine as a rival to the then dominant *Vanity Fair*.

It quickly became a success by basking itself in the sharp wit and cutting snobbery of its founding group. This gave it appeal to the heirs of the "Old" New York ruling class, the emblem of the magazine's original ethos was, and is, Eustace Tilley, the early American dandy who appeared on the first cover and still sits atop the magazine's contents page.

Ross created an entertaining magazine that covered the cultural and social events of the city. But he also instituted a tradition for great writing, with S J Perelman, Robert Benchley, Ogden Nash, James Thurber and many more becoming regular contributors.

Towards the end of his reign, Ross also began a new kind of reportage, partly thanks to the prompting of his successor, William Shawn. In a landmark piece in 1949, *The New Yorker* produced in its entirety the novel *Hiroshima*, John Hershey's mammoth and devastating account of the day the first nuclear bomb fell on a city.

The book's mixture of on-the-spot reportage and powerful, well-informed narrative, set a pattern for such works which the magazine has hardly changed since. At the same time, its graphic detail alerted the



The 'New Yorker's' shift from highbrow liberalism to a greater focus on sex and celebrity under Tina Brown has been condemned by the old guard

Emma Boam

world to the horror of nuclear attack, establishing a new liberal viewpoint for the magazine as it moved into a new era. In the 20 years after the Second World War, *New Yorker* was the centre of the art world thanks to abstract expressionism, and artists such as Mark Rothko and Jackson Pollock. And while in England crit-

Camille Paglia called
the magazine 'that
poisoned nexus of
smug, old-guard
liberalism'

ics lamented the death of the novel, the American novel was having its golden period.

Central to this was the New York school, established in no small way by the support of Shawn and *The New Yorker*. The publication of J D Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye* in 1951, under Harold Ross's editorship, but at Shawn's prompting, is totemic of the magazine's place in the Fifties literary world. *The New Yorker* encouraged, published and employed most of the post-war American canon: John Updike, Damon Runyon, Truman Capote, James Baldwin,

Norman Mailer, and others. Shawn also developed a new kind of journalism, with the first publication in 1965 of Capote's *In Cold Blood*, the novelisation of a bloody murder that invented "faction".

The journalistic and artistic success of Shawn made *The New Yorker* more institution than magazine, but his time has its critics. Camille Paglia has repeatedly described it as the journal of a pretentious elite: "that poisoned nexus of smug, old-guard, genteel liberalism that radiates among the cloyish professional class from Manhattan to Cambridge and Washington."

Others have said that being the summit of American letters could give the magazine's readers altitude sickness. Certainly, Shawn published painfully learned pieces because he thought they were "good for" the readers, even if they did not understand them.

Under Shawn, the magazine's circulation peaked at 510,000 in 1983. It was, and is, a monstrously expensive operation, paying some writers \$25,000 (£15,000) for a long piece. The Fleischmann family sold the magazine to Si Newhouse's Condé Nast in 1985 for \$142m, but it was making a loss, and a more commercial era was beckoning. Newhouse replaced Shawn in 1987 with a book editor, Robert Gottlieb, who did little to stamp his own im-

primatur on the place. Instead, in the brash world of the Reagan-Thatcher Eighties, when New York was the centre of the money world, not the art world, *The New Yorker* looked like a dinosaur. Tina Brown's arrival in 1992 from the much more successful *Vanity Fair* was greeted by the magazine's old hands, according to one critic, as if she were the "lead zombie in a highbrow remake of the Texas Chainsaw Massacre".

Former *New Yorker* writers such as Garrison Keillor and Jamaica Kincaid have conducted a campaign against her because of the introduction of photographs, and her concentration on sex and celebrity. In particular, her creation of a new kind of cultural elite, centred around the entertainment and media industries, irks former staff.

Yet Brown's eye for the zeitgeist, and her application of good writers to newsy topics such as the OJ Simpson case, has given the magazine a buzz of a new kind. It is chattered about by the chattering classes, and yet also manages the long, informed and detailed pieces of journalism that were supposedly banished with the Fleischmann family.

It also continues to publish the greats. Woody Allen may have stopped writing for it in the early Eighties, but the Roths and Updikes are still there.

Another hallmark of Brown's reign was her use of British writers. The "summit of American letters" has been conquered by people such as VS Naipaul, Martin Amis, Jeanette Winterson, Ian McEwan, Ted Hughes and Nick Hornby. The honorary Brit Bill Buford is literary editor, a British journalist, Anthony Lane, is film critic, and Christopher Hitchens and Timothy Garton Ash are regular contributors.

The new editor, David Remnick, is an American, and the numerous British writers that were hired by Tina Brown are said to be quaking in their boots. "There is a great anti-British feeling in New York, and it's mostly Tina's fault," says one British writer.

Brown's enemies are already celebrating her departure. Jamaica Kincaid said last week: "I could not have wished a worse fate for her than a job at Miramax. I hope that Mr Shawn, wherever he is, is happy. I will dance on her grave for him."

Another former *New Yorker* writer, Randy Cohen, summed up the old guard's view of her: "I assume we can now look forward to Miramax becoming the shallow, celebrity-obsessed money loser she made *The New Yorker*."

Yet there is no sign that Ms Brown's departure means the magazine is moving into rarefied air again. Despite raising the circulation

by 200,000 to more than 800,000, the title still lost \$1m (£6.6m) last year, and has been brought under direct financial control by Condé Nast. A period of cost-cutting seems more likely than another editorial change in direction.

One Condé Nast insider said: "Tina Brown was supposed to trans-

'There is a great
anti-British feeling.
It's mostly Tina's
fault. British writers
are terrified'

form the readership into something more ad-friendly. In the process, she alienated the old readership, without attracting a new one."

There is speculation that the magazine might be better as a monthly - certainly, it would be better read, since few people have enough time in their week to get through 4,000-word articles on Hollywood executives. "It was founded at the height of the depression, when people had more time," says one writer. "No one has the time to read it now."

A monthly magazine also has a lot more chance of making money. "She must have cost Si Newhouse \$150m," says a Condé Nast insider of Tina Brown.

"Most of that is wasteful over-commissioning. When the new editor of *The New Yorker* turns up at the office, the first thing he or she will find is a cupboard full of unused manuscripts that will all have to be paid for." The next editor would have to follow the move towards a more populist title: "It would be foolish to appoint some harmless, academic drudge," says an insider. "It needs an upbeat, high-profile, show-biz type."

Kincaid believes the magazine is in the hands of people who do not understand its purpose. "Si Newhouse has no interest in literature, no interest in writers. *The New Yorker* never made a lot of money, but it made a lot of people contented with life. It gave some civilised context in which you could talk about the world. That's what Si Newhouse has destroyed with the help of this woman."

As for the future of the magazine, the new "vicious circle" knows as little about the economics of modern magazines as it does about racial correctness. "Si Newhouse should sell the magazine," says Kincaid. "He is worse for American culture than 10 million Mexicans."

ANALYSIS PAUL MCCANN

Football helps tabloids to score

THE ACROSS-the-board fall in tabloid circulations in May was attributed by some editors to the start of the summer sales slump.

If that really was the reason for the drop, only the World Cup can account for the surprising health of most newspapers in the June Audit Bureau of Circulation figures.

The received wisdom is that the special supplements, star writers and ad campaigns newspapers employ during the World Cup are mostly defensive moves designed to stop rivals poaching readers. It was thought that a good run by England could give a sales lift in the days running up to, and after, a match. An analysis of previous June football tournaments shows that neither Euro 96 nor previous World Cups have bucked the trend of the summer slump. But television ratings for this tournament have been bigger than ever before, and it seems that the same appeal has pushed newspaper sales in June up by an average 170,000 copies a day compared with the month before.

David Yelland's first month as editor of *The Sun* was a happy one. The paper added 50,000 sales thanks to the World Cup - the biggest rise of any tabloid - although the size of his job is underlined by the fact that the newspaper is still selling 87,000 fewer issues than in June 1997.

Indeed, it is mainly thanks to *The Express's* and *The Sun's* year-on-year sales falls (*The Express* is also down

87,000 copies on last June) that football was big enough to buck the summer's sales trends - if not the long-term decline of tabloids. There were 73,000 fewer tabloid newspapers sold each day last month than there were in the same month last year.

The Mirror did proportionally the best in the tabloid market, adding sales of 48,300 over the previous month - up 2.22 per cent. *The Mirror's* growth might also be attributed to the ongoing improvement in its product, as well as the football.

The rationale for the *Mirror* Group's purchase of the *Derry Journal* last week is also illuminated by the latest round of ABC figures. The *Mirror* sold 40,800 copies a day in the Republic of Ireland last month while *The Star* sold 86,800 and *The Sun* sold 86,000. These significant numbers explain the *Mirror* Group's desire to increase its printing and distribution capacity in Eire. The effect of the football on the quality market was less marked. *The Times* has benefited most, thanks largely to a massive direct-mail campaign offering tickets to World Cup games that was tied in to Vauxhall's sponsorship of ITV's World Cup coverage. In an expensive push, *The Times* posted offers to over 1 million potential readers. That added 16,600 to its June sales - a lift of 2.2 per cent on May.

The Daily Telegraph saw its sales fall marginally in the face of its frequent assertion that it has strong

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION			
Daily newspapers	May 1998	June 1998	% change
<i>The Mirror</i>	2,291,740	2,360,089	+2.11
<i>Daily Star</i>	574,273	574,086	-0.03
<i>The Sun</i>	3,651,177	3,701,446	+1.38
<i>The Express</i>	1,141,507	1,113,356	-0.71
<i>Daily Mail</i>	2,266,762	2,312,168	+2.01
<i>Daily Telegraph</i>	1,070,313	1,066,075	-0.34
<i>Guardian</i>	395,540	400,005	+1.13
<i>Independent</i>	219,974	224,559	+2.08
<i>Times</i>	753,043	769,742	+2.22
Sunday newspapers			
<i>News of the World</i>	4,205,797	4,185,449	-0.96
<i>Sunday Mirror</i>	2,033,110	1,970,364	-3.06
<i>Sunday People</i>	1,733,170	1,716,906	-0.94
<i>Mail on Sunday</i>	2,191,342	2,192,294	+0.04
<i>Express on Sunday</i>	1,069,357	1,033,241	-3.38
<i>Independent on Sunday</i>	255,072	255,664	+0.23
<i>Observer</i>	401,978	403,300	+0.33
<i>Sunday Telegraph</i>	826,297	833,878	+0.92
<i>Sunday Times</i>	1,340,251	1,370,575	+2.28

sports pages. The title has just paid a large sum to become a secondary sponsor of the Premier League to try to enhance its sports connection.

The Independent's editorial changes from 9 June had the effect of giving the paper its third consecutive month of sales growth. According to the published figures this newspaper added 4,500 new buyers a day in June. This increase of 2.08 per cent would have been higher if the paper had not started to reduce the number of "bulk sales" - newspapers distributed through hotel chains and

other organisations. The Sunday market fared less well than the dailies in June, with all the tabloids but the *Mail on Sunday* losing sales. The Sunday popular market lost 135,600 in sales compared with the month before, which in turn was down 160,000 copies on the month before that. The *Observer* dropped the sales of 21 June from its audit, as it is allowed to do by the ABC's rules as it did not do the *Independent* on *Sunday*, but the suspicion must be that if the *Observer's* average had included that day, it would have dropped below 400,000.

BEING A millionaire can make you very charming. *The Mirror's* editor Piers Morgan had a tantrum with Richard Branson (pictured right) last week after feeling that he had secured the serialisation rights to Branson's forthcoming autobiography - only to discover that the bearded wonder had sold the rights to *The Times* and *The Sun*.

Never one to miss the main chance however, Branson has written to tell Morgan he now has a "gem of an idea" as to how *The Mirror* can still benefit from his life story.

He is promising Morgan a "lavish" dinner to discuss his idea when he is back from holiday, or - if Piers prefers - a "modest dinner on Necker" (Branson's private Caribbean island) can be arranged any time in August.

Branson has clearly forgiven *The Mirror* for the hyped-up story that it ran last month about his being sexually abused at school. A soon-to-be-suntanned Piers Morgan will probably be equally forgiving about the book deal.

EVEN IF Branson and the *Mirror* are now friends, not everyone has forgiven the paper for its front-page story about the 13-year-old Branson's sex life.

The millionaire's old school, *Stowe*, is now suing *The Mirror* for the outrageous accusation that homosexual practices might have taken place there. Branson, for his

THE WORD ON THE STREET



part, wasn't even at the school at the time covered by *The Mirror's* story.

THOSE WHO managed more than one episode of the BBC's self-parodic comedy *In the Red* will remember that the plot to get rid of the fictional director general revolved around the creation of satirical religious programme called "Oh Jesus!" If the real DG Sir John Birt has been reading the job ads in this week's *Ariel*, the BBC's in-house magazine, he may have cause to worry. The corporation's religious affairs department is currently advertising for associate producers to come up with a late-night religious programme with a satirical format.

Even if it does not manage to

dethrone the DG, it shouldn't be hard for it to be funnier than *In the Red*.

FIRST *THE Sunday Telegraph* is deserted as unhappy staff leave in droves, now *The Sunday Times*. It has always been renowned for its rather repressive regime, but dissatisfaction seems to have reached record levels.

Three senior staff have quit with no jobs to go to - Richard Woods, Focus editor, Andrew Malone, South Africa correspondent, and John Hardy, head of IT systems. Three other long-serving reporters have joined other organisations - Andrew Grice, political editor, Kirsty Lang, Paris correspondent, and Rajeev Syal, a senior home news writer.

Meanwhile, efforts to replace Grice as political editor, traditionally one of the top jobs on Fleet Street, are to no avail in spite of the huge salary package being bandied about. At least three targets have opted to stay where they are following discussions with the editor, John Witherow; others are said to have withdrawn from the contest as soon as they heard they were in contention.

As a result, Witherow has had to abandon the search for the moment and appoint Grice's respected deputy, Michael Prescott, although only on an acting basis. The remaining staff say morale is rock bottom.

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صلى الله عليه وسلم

Profits mean the loss of friends for BBC

The public service Beeb has been cutting shrewd commercial deals. Now rivals are ganging up against its special status. By Paul McCann

The tanks are on the BBC's lawn, and they have come from many directions. For once the attacks on the corporation are coming not from the Conservative Party or outraged moralists as they did in the Eighties. Instead, a loose coalition of commercial rivals is targeting the BBC's funding, its self-regulation, its programmes and even its public service remit.



Deal-maker Burt Credit?

— conveniently forgetting about the radio network.

Rupert Murdoch gave advance notice of *The Sun* campaign when he addressed the pan-European Audio Visual Conference in Birmingham earlier this year. On that occasion he launched an attack on the BBC's News 24 channel because it is free, and so is replacing his Sky News on cable company channel packages. The great media monopolist deemed this "protectionism" and "market distortion".

Murdoch's attack came shortly after the trade body for the commercial radio industry, the CRCA, launched a full-blown assault on the BBC's *Perfect Day* trailer.

The CRCA, like the magazine companies before them, are increasingly convinced that the BBC's cross-promotion of its ser-

vices amounts to commercial advertising on what is supposedly an advertising-free channel. Its argument was largely based on the BBC's use of an advertising agency to make the *Perfect Day* film.

But by far the most organised and co-ordinated attack is now coming from ITV. The channel has been invigorated by a new chief executive, Richard Eyre. He in turn has been prompted by advertisers concerned that ITV is losing viewers to cable and satellite while the BBC's share has stayed level.

So, last week in a pre-emptive strike before the publication of the BBC's annual report and accounts tomorrow, the commercial network produced its own, highly critical report, *The BBC's Public Service Obligations and Commercial Activities*. The document has been circulated to journalists, MPs and crucially, Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary.

In it, ITV makes detailed allegations about the BBC's commitment to providing programmes not supplied by commercial broadcasters, the accountability of its commercial activities and the way it is regulated. They are arguments which have been heard variously before, but this time they are backed up with specific research and accusations.

ITV monitored two weeks of programmes on BBC1 and the same two weeks on ITV broadcasters Central and Yorkshire. It claims that the commercial broadcasters aired more arts programming, more educational children's and regional programmes because it has legally binding obligations to air set quantities of public service programming.

In contrast, the BBC, says ITV, has self-set targets, which are meaningless because they contain no firm obligations. This flexibility of regulation allows the BBC to push its public service programmes, such as *Panorama* and *Question Time*, to the edges of the schedule, or to shove them wholesale over on to BBC2 — an option not open to ITV.

The ITV does not go as far as *The Sun* in calling for the licence fee to be scrapped, and even supports the corporation's right to broadcast programmes with more than just minority appeal. But aspects of its attack do dovetail with criticism from other quarters.

Mr Murdoch's *Times* newspaper was particularly livid about BBC commercialisation because of the deal with lottery operator Camelot to air *The Big Ticket*, a programme that required the purchase of a lottery ticket. And, like the commer-



The Corporation called in the admen to produce its *Perfect Day* promo trailer Credit??

cial radio industry, ITV's report attacks the BBC's use of cross-promotion, particularly money-making events such as *Match of the Day Live* — which ITV would never have been allowed to promote.

The most serious ITV charge is one which the BBC will try to answer tomorrow in a new form of annual report — that the licence-fee payer is subsidising the corporation's commercial activities when it should be the other way around.

ITV complains that staff paid for by the licence fee work across the commercial operations, that the BBC's commercial website is being promoted using licence fee money, and that the accounts of the BBC make it impossible to know whether it gets full value from programme

sales when it is selling programmes to its own commercial arm.

The ostensible reason for the new ITV campaign against the BBC is that Chris Smith is beginning a review of the way the BBC is regulated and funded in the run-up to 2002, when the licence is due to be renewed. ITV is presenting its document as an argument for changes to BBC self-regulation.

Just as likely, however, is that it has been prompted by ITV's need to try to hobble the BBC's competitive scheduling instincts ahead of the digital revolution when television channels will proliferate and both will face myriad rivals.

The BBC will try to rebut ITV's claims in tomorrow's annual report that promises more detail on com-

mercial activities and more accountability from the director general and chairman. Yet the feel of the report may do more to alarm those worried about the creeping commercialism of the corporation.

The BBC is describing its chairman's statement as "a kind of AGM". Press officers have started describing the viewers as "customers" and those invited to the unveiling of the new report have been described as "stakeholders".

This cultural shift may just be about language. But it could yet have the consequence of adding another constituency to those gangling up against the BBC — those liberal, passionate, believers in public service broadcasting who make up most of its staff.

Advertisers get hooked on a cult of personality

If you want to sell a product, just hire a celebrity to plug it and sales will soar. Is it really that simple? By John Crace

WHAT A difference 90 minutes makes. Until Zinedine Zidane put two goals past Brazil on Sunday night to become the hero of France, Adidas's World Cup advertising strategy was looking a bit unlucky. The German sportswear manufacturer had bought up not only David Beckham, who did so much for England, but also Holland's Kluijver and that man Zidane, all of whom had been red-carded.

It is not just sportsmen and women who catch adland on the hop, either. The best case of a celebrity doing all the wrong things for their brand sponsor is Michael Jackson's now defunct association with Pepsi. Someone must have misunderstood "going for the youth market".

But the potential for injury or indiscretion to wreck a million-pound campaign has done nothing to deter the advertising industry's enthusiasm for using celebrities to shift products. Over the last 10 years, agencies have been using celebs in ever-increasing numbers. Models, game-show hosts and sportsmen have all suddenly become celebs. And these are much more advertising-friendly than the old-fashioned glitterati — who spent as much time as they could avoiding the public — because they have a person-next-door feel.

Couple this with a fragmenting media and agencies under constant pressure to build a new brand instantaneously, and you have a marriage made in heaven. If the agency picks the right celeb, then it has nailed the brief. It may be a lousy shorthand for creativity, but it provides instant leverage into the market-place. When it all comes together it can work fantastically well. Gary Lineker has done wonders for Walkers crisps, as has Rowan Atkinson for Barclaycard, Harry Enfield for Hula Hoops and Dawn French for Terry's Chocolate Orange. But there is a fine dividing line in celebrity ads. You don't want your celeb to be so funny, so outrageous, so glamorous that everyone remembers the ad but has no idea of what it's for.

The new Claudia Schiffer ad for the Citroën Xsara, where she strips down to basics, is a possible case in point. Paul Uhart, vice-chairman of Euro RSCG Woeck Gossper, the agency responsible for the ad, claims that the opposite is true. "Our post-test results have been way above average," he says. "We have one of the top campaigns in terms of model attribution." But which model did Uhart have in mind? And is the baseline for model recognition usually so low? Besides which, a survey by the casting organisation, the Celebrity Group, showed that the Schiffer ad was voted one of the five least-loved ads. Uhart is hardly likely to start running down a high-profile campaign, given that it has probably cost the client a small fortune.

Celebrities do not come cheap, though getting exact figures is like getting blood from a stone. Ron Mowlam, chief executive of the Celebrity Group, says that fees are worked out according to strict

arithmetical formulae — time spent shooting, where the ad will be shown and for how long, etc. "We were responsible for the recent David Ginola advertisements," he says. "His agent in Paris is one of the most knowledgeable sports agents I have ever worked with. When we compared figures we were both spot-on."

But still no figures. Naturally enough, agencies try to minimise the cost, while the celebrities like to ramp the numbers. After all, there is a certain kudos to being the highest-paid model/footballer. One agency reckoned it could get Schiffer for \$60,000 per day (£37,000), while her PR claims she got £3m for the Citroën campaign. As a guideline, though, the going rate for a Premiership footballer appears to be about £100,000.

Agencies try to mitigate the cost by claiming that they can save money by making simpler ads and filming five or six scripts back to back in the same location. As such, they say that the famous offer tremendous value for money.

But if you want real value, then you create your own celebrities. Nicole and Papa were nobodies five years ago; now they almost have lives of their own. "Renault now



David Beckham has found that fame has its drawbacks

own these characters," says Paul Quarry of Publicis, the agency behind the Renault Clio ads. "Some celebrities become difficult to work with on script control and the agency risks not owning the campaign. That can't happen with your own characters."

Yet there are signs that the celebrity bubble may be about to burst. Bruce Forsyth, Shane Richie, Ruby Wax, Nanette Newman, Richard Wilson, Des Lynam, Alan Davies and Claudia Schiffer all took a hammering in last week's survey by the Celebrity Group. And which ad has picked up this year's Design in Advertising Award, the British TV Award, and is widely tipped to take first prize at Cannes? The VW "surprisingly ordinary prices". With not a celeb in sight.

If the future's Orange, its has got to be conciliatory

PITCH



A PR MAN AND AN ADVERTISING AGENT GIVE THE ORANGE ORDER SOME ADVICE ON HOW IT COULD CONVINCE PEOPLE THAT IT IS A FORCE FOR GOOD

Edward Bickham, managing director, Public and Corporate Affairs, Hill and Knowlton THEY FIRST need to define who their audience is and what their objectives are. My advice to them would be based on the assumption that their audience is the whole of the UK, not just Northern Ireland, and that their objectives are to exercise what they feel is their legitimate right to free expression and march where they've traditionally done — as opposed to trying to destroy an agreement that has been endorsed by 73 per cent of the population.

Looking at the UK audience's state of knowledge, I'd say there is almost complete incomprehension of the Orange cause and the tradition it represents. This is the result of years of neglect on the part of

the advocates of the Union. The British people do not empathise with the language of "no surrender".

I think the Orangemen handled events well on Sunday 5th. The initial march to the church was conducted in a dignified way, and their spokespeople that day spoke in tones of moderation. Since then, the situation has spun well out of control. The Garvaghy Road Association is clearly led by hardliners, and yet the Orange Order has allowed itself to be painted into a corner.

I would suggest:

- 1) An act of statesmanship. If they were to seize the high ground by calling off the protest to thwart the extremists, it would place them in a much stronger position for future years. This is

purely on the grounds that legitimate protest is being used as a front for attacks on the police, and a front for the activities of extremists.

- 2) Then, a careful PR campaign to explain their traditions, and how they see their identity as being under threat. There has been a great deal of discussion in recent years about recognising the Irish identity in Northern Ireland, but that has to be balanced by allowing the majority also to express their traditions. Calling off the protests would also be the best possible launch pad for an aggressive campaign of interviews and features on the values and traditions of Unionism in the British and international media. There are moderate voices in the Orange

Order and they deserve better than to be the pawns of the "hard men". Only through a dramatic, conciliatory gesture can they now expect to claw back the ground lost over many years.

Winston Fletcher, chairman, Bozell UK Group IT ISN'T clear who the Orangemen's target audience would be. That is to say, what they want or need to communicate in Northern Ireland is very nearly diametrically opposed to what they need to communicate in mainland Britain.

In Northern Ireland, they need to show that they are passionately, obsessively determined to fight for the Protestant cause. In mainland Britain, they need to show that they're thoughtful and reasonable and anything but

extremists. Anything that they say on the mainland that looks like they're weakening will reduce their support back home, and anything they say in Northern Ireland that looks extremist will reduce their support in mainland Britain.

If we are considering principally their image on the mainland, then I believe they need to be "unhysterical", reasonable and ready to continue to compromise.

So, if I were to do an advertising campaign:

- 1) It should be logical and argumentative, but not too wordy. But they should be copy-based advertisements, because the very appearance of words will make it clear that they have a sensible argument to advance. It should avoid images of

aggression and hostility, and it should avoid going back into history, putting forward a modest and moderately argued case.

- 2) I'd be thinking of press ads — whole pages in *The Independent*, *The Guardian*, *The Times*, *The Telegraph* and *The Financial Times* — because I think they should be aiming to influence the opinion-leaders on the mainland — politicians and civil servants — rather than the mass of the population.

For Northern Ireland, I would suggest they'd want to reinforce and indeed bolster their image as heroes and champions of the Protestant cause, and remind Protestants of the risks and injustices that they could suffer if the Catholic Irish have too much power.

SCOTT HUGHES

Honesty slips through the Net

Will accuracy and fair news reporting suffer on the anything-goes Internet? By Naomi Marks

AFTER RUSHING into bed together amid the hype and excitement of the Internet, journalists and new media are proving uneasy partners.

The anything-goes nature of the new medium, and the way it is shaping the message, are now horrifying journalists brought up on the traditional values of accuracy, fairness and objectivity.

Now, some of the great and good in US journalism have decided to act. Ironically, for a nation that values its freedoms and a profession that has fought hard to preserve them, they have picked a form of self-regulation: "the application of a gold standard to journalistic endeavour".

Perhaps even more ironically, one of the main proponents of such a scheme is David Weir, a man who numbers among his journalistic claims to fame a not-insignificant role in bringing the notorious Net scandal-monger Matt Drudge to public attention.

It was Weir, an award-winning

broadcaster, co-founder of the Centre for Investigative Reporting and new media fellow at the University of California School of Journalism, who, as managing director of *Hot Wired* in 1996, was attracted to Drudge, a well-connected but then little-known gossip columnist. Weir invited him to work on *Wired News*, a daily Web news service.

More recently, it was Drudge's own Net-based publication, *The Drudge Report*, that broke the Zippergate allegations.

With his devil-may-care attitude to breaking news ("News too fresh to have to be true," as he puts it), Drudge - and others like him - are worrying the likes of Weir.

According to Weir, in London last week to address journalists at Net-Media, a conference exploring issues around journalism and the Net, the new media present a challenge

even beyond that already being faced in the US traditional media (where a spate of apologies for fictitious stories in news magazines and a new currency given to unsourced allegations have already led

The way the Net is shaping the message is now horrifying many journalists

to journalistic soul-searching.

Weir points to an increase in "cut-and-paste journalism", on the Web, in which old news reports are regurgitated unchecked, and a trend toward opinion-based journalism, spin and conspiracy theory, at the

expense of facts. He cites the pressures of working for a medium in which constant updating has greater priority than a respect for accuracy, and he fears for a future in which the divide between advertising and editorial is redefined.

Already, he says - "though unwilling to give examples" - it has been eroded to a thread.

"There is a broad realisation that because this is a new media there are no conforming standards, and we are getting into all sorts of trouble", Weir says.

"Previously, journalists had rules of engagement. If the rules were broken, at least it was in contravention of standards. Now there are no standards. It's like the first century after Gutenberg."

And he asks: "As everyone becomes a publisher, how do we tell which publishers can be trusted?"

For a year now, representatives from journalists' groups such as the Society of Professional Journalists, the top university journalism departments such as those at Berkeley and Columbia, and the major US

The aim is to encourage big content providers to publish ethical guidelines

content providers such as *Wired* and *CNet*, have been attempting to come up with some solutions. Their aim is to encourage transparency in new media journalism so that readers can see what they are getting. In the process, they hope to

counter bad propaganda about the Web. After all, these people are as excited about the potential of the Internet as a news medium as any Drudge could be.

Some ideas have already had to be rejected. The proposal to institute a system of standardised colour coding for links on websites, such as red for a link to a commercial site, green for an internal link, etc, failed after it was realised that computer colour palettes were unstable across computer platforms. This failure illustrated the type of problems journalists face as technology enters the ethical debate.

The aim now is to encourage the big content providers to publish their own ethical guidelines on their websites. But that is just a first step towards introducing a common quality seal, a "brand of trust", according to Weir, that will assure readers

that the news they are digesting online has been gathered in accordance with established journalistic standards.

There will be many who accuse those such as Weir of misunderstanding the spirit of the Internet, who will say these new rules are a vain attempt by a journalistic elite to preserve a tight grip on the story-breaking front, that they work against the democratising of news media and, in the process, protect the rich and powerful.

It is certainly unlikely that Weir and his associates will win any plaudits from Matt Drudge.

But, Weir is the first to point out that he and his ilk are of conservative dispositions. And he has no intention of changing. "Not if it means thinking you can stretch the meaning of a fact, change the idea of fairness", he asserts.

"We're operating in enough of a Wild West frontier," he adds. "That's enough of a challenge for people."

My written word is my bond

The Prime Minister's office claims that reporters' notes need audiotape back-up.

This is wrong, writes Janine Gibson

NOT FOR the first time the Prime Minister's press secretary, Alistair Campbell, started making things up last week. The man who once confidently asserted that it was "bollocks" that the PM had discussed Rupert Murdoch with his Italian counterpart, last week tried to claim equally dubiously that a journalist's notes were not enough to "hang a man out to dry".

Mr Campbell's claim raised an issue rarely considered by many reporters. How do you prove that someone has said something they should not have?

The Downing Street spokesman was reacting to calls from the Conservative Party for an investigation into comments allegedly made by Roger Liddle at a party.

He said at his morning briefing last Monday that the Prime Minister could not be expected to react to accusations against a policy official based on the word of "two men at the end of a ballroom".

Mr Campbell went on to accuse *The Observer* of implying that it had a tape of the conversation.

He said that a representative of the paper had implied that the conversation was taped in an interview on Radio 5 Live.

When questioned on whether the conversation had been taped, *The Observer* journalist, Greg Palast, had said, "I have that for certain".

The Observer's deputy editor, Jocelyn Targett, said the paper had never claimed that the conversation had been taped, but that it had substantial evidence to back up its allegations. "We have half a dozen tapes, we have lots of contemporaneous notes. The conversation that the Government is talking about, the one with [Roger] Liddle, that is not on a tape - we never claimed it was on a tape."

"It's a total red herring," Mr Targett said that the conversation was well documented by

"contemporaneous notes" made by the journalists shortly after the conversation ended. He added: "Contemporaneous notes are good enough for the police force, good enough for the courts, and frankly it's good enough for *The Observer*."

A verbatim shorthand note in a reporter's pad or a policeman's notebook has long been recognised by the courts as suitable evidence in the witness box.

Trainee journalists are usually told the story of how one of the most famous libel trials of the Eighties was lost by a newspaper because a reporter had misdated his notebook. The plaintiff in the case was able to prove that he was not where the reporter claimed on the day in question and the newspaper had to pay out a six-figure sum. Nevertheless, many journalists believe that notes are generally more reliable than tape recorders, which tend to become muffled and inevitably cut out at a crucial moment.

Lord Wakeham, the chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, said last week: "When a complaint of inaccuracy is received by the PCC we always seek a justification from the newspaper. Sometimes this comes in the form of audiotape or videotape evidence, but most often it comes from the reporter's contemporaneous notes of events. We have to judge what is most appropriate in the circumstances and there is not a specific difference between the different methods."

In investigative journalism, tape-recording is more common than in day-to-day reporting because journalists know from the outset that they are covering something that is likely to be disputed.

Journalists on major television investigations make a habit of taping almost every phone call they make.

The former editor of *The Sunday Times*, Andrew Neil, whose "Insight" investigations team broke



The tape is taking over from written notes because 'there are times when you have to be wired for sound to be safe' Neville Elder

the cash for questions story damning the Conservative Government, was cautious. Mr Neil says: "If you're involved in a serious investigation there are times when you do have to be wired for sound to be safe."

There were a number of times in the British Airways dirty tricks story and cash for questions when we'd have been in real trouble if we weren't wired. Contemporaneous notes are also important and should not be dismissed, but the conversation took

place at a cocktail party. That's not contemporaneous: it must have been written down afterwards."

However, not all commentators agreed with Mr Neil's definition of "contemporaneous". Roy Green-slade, the former editor of the *Mirror*, and a newspaper commentator, said: "The point is that a shorthand note made contemporaneously or just after you've been speaking to someone is as valid. In fact if we're saying that only a tape recording

will be valid in future, then we're asking all journalists to become experts in spy techniques, and it's a bad day for journalism."

Peter Cole, professor of journalism at the University of Central Lancashire, said yesterday that journalism students are taught that "anything they put in quotation marks should be verbatim, but they are taught that the great bulk of the notes that they take will be in a notebook". Professor Cole noted that Mr

Campbell was a leading political journalist before taking the position as Mr Blair's press spokesman.

"Both of these [tapes and notes] are journalistic practices and anybody who has worked in the House of Commons, as he did, knows that notes are taken after you've parted - as soon as you're away from the conversation. He will have spent half of his life as a working political journalist making notes of conversations just after they've finished."

Racist? Moi? Tabloid editors deny anti-French bias

We're just having a laugh, claim *The Sun* and *The Mirror*. By Anthony Delano



Roycroft-Davis of *The Sun*: admits his 'frog' mistake

FRANCE'S VICTORY in the World Cup final on Sunday night is unlikely to make the nation any more popular with a certain constituency.

While for most people the World Cup is a celebration of internationalism, of a common interest uniting the world, the British tabloid press needed to be warned in advance to avoid using the tournament as an excuse for xenophobia.

Although traditionally the Germans have been the main target for tabloid xenophobia, for *The Sun* and *The Mirror* the ticket crisis during the finals gave the tabloids an excuse to do what they love almost as much as bashing the Germans - bashing the French.

In interviews with the French news magazine *L'Europeen* last week, spokesmen for the two British red-tops have been trying to explain away their recent excessive bad language and attitude. Most of their

responses served to dig them even more deeply into the mire. But there were some cherishable insights into tabloid values.

The main defence the two papers had in common was that they were merely giving their readers what the readers had come to expect: entertainment rather than information. They do not really expect any of their readers to believe what they write and publish.

In a surprisingly frank admission, Chris Roycroft-Davis, *The Sun's* assistant editor and leader writer, said: "A reader who wants to be seriously informed would take the quality press."

Sun readers expected articles written to a formula, he said: "They are not looking for profound analysis of France. It is easier for them to associate the French with an image like 'garlic eaters'."

David Banks, *The Mirror's* cor-

porate affairs director, did not come across any better: "We are not trying to educate. On the contrary, we go in the direction people want."

This was, Banks admitted, "lazy journalism... a laziness common to journalists and readers."

L'Europeen's cover story was "Why the English detest us". Both Banks and Roycroft-Davis insisted this was not the case. "When we say that the French never wash, and hide their money under the soap," said Roycroft-Davis, "our readers know that is meant to be humorous."

However, he admitted that it had been a mistake to use the word "frog" in stories about the World Cup.

Banks said the French misunderstood much of what had been written because they did not have a tabloid press of their own. Historically, he said, newspapers such as *The Mirror* loved to agitate, provoke - and to change tack: "On Monday,

The Mirror could describe the French as arrogant, and on Tuesday, as warm and passionate."

Anyway, said Roycroft-Davis reflectively, the French were not above a little xenophobia themselves. Look at the way that British lorries had been blocked in France. Was that racism? *The Sun* might be frank and abrupt. It might not mince its words. But it was not racist.

Banks chose the French National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen for his defence by offence. The right-wing politician used language that had a particular effect on the immature and impressionable. But, said Banks: "I am sure that Le Pen's voters are not stupid enough to believe everything he says. It is the same thing with our readers."

Only the convoluted logic of a tabloid editor could use a National Front leader to defend himself from accusations of racism.



Banks of *The Mirror*: 'We are not trying to educate'

TRIAL BY MEDIA



COOKERY WRITER
PRUE LEITH SUFFERS THE
CULINARY DELIGHTS
OFFERED BY TV

FOR YEARS there could not be too many cookery programmes. They could not be a trial to watch. Now I find sustained cookery-programme-watching harder work.

I welcomed every new TV programme, good, bad and indifferent, convinced that the more the public saw of the art of cooking, the more respected it would be. And, I thought, the effect on the availability of good ingredients would be dramatic.

When Sainsbury's ran their Tiramisu recipe advert, the whole country ran out of mascarpone.

Keith Floyd's liberal slurping and sloshing had made telly-food fun, taking it out of worthy afternoon programming and onto prime-time.

The popularity of his programmes proved, I thought, that the British had at last realised food and cooking were interesting and worthwhile. I was convinced they'd be cooking with gusto now.

Fifteen years later, I'm not so sure. I wish I thought anyone watched the amazing *Two Fat Ladies* because the redoubtable Jennifer and Clarissa are so passionate about good ingredients and the joy of eating. Or watched Ainsley Harriott because they want something more interesting on their barbecue than a burnt sausage. But I suspect they are watched much as clowns are watched - for a giggle.

Most programmes don't bother with fact sheets or recipes anymore, because no one writes in for them. It seems we watch cooking as entertainment, not with any idea of having a go.

Of course there are exceptions. No one could watch *Rose Gray* and Ruthie Rogers of the River Café make their famous Nemesis without reaching for pen and paper - or ordering the *River Café Cookbook*, one of the great best-sellers of all time. And Delia Smith is still, in my book, the best. When she stuffed red peppers with tomatoes and anchovies, drenched them in olive oil and baked them, she did more for Mediterranean cooking than all the new-wave brasseries in London.

The difference is that these cooks, and others like them (I would include the teachers in *Chef School*, and Sophie Grigson) are bent on telling us how. Most of the rest are bent on being media stars.

The consequence is that telly cooking has become a substitute for the real thing. We are so busy watching Rick Stein do wondrous things with fish that all we've time for is fish fingers.

Prue Leith is chairman of the RSA's Focus on Food campaign.

Oversexed, overblown and on their way over here

Hello! and *OK!* lead the field in celebrity obsession, but they may find themselves beaten at their own game if American titles such as *People* and magazine *In Style* invade. By Lucy Killgren

In the beginning there was *Hello!* It was joined three years ago by *OK!* And within months yet another celebrity title could be bringing a whole new curse to the nation and keeping divorce lawyers in clover for years to come.

The US celebrity weekly *People*, with a circulation of just under 3.5 million, is likely to make its way on to British newsstands within the next 12 months, if the world's largest media conglomerate, Time Warner, has its way.

Its younger sister title, the celebrity, lifestyle and beauty monthly *In Style*, with a circulation of just under 1 million, is also hotly tipped for European export. Little known outside the US, it is one to watch – a celebrity-led monthly with a strong emphasis on lifestyle and beauty that has unrivalled access to Hollywood stars, with its strong LA-based staff.

The news will make uncomfortable reading for publishers such as IPC, which publishes *Now* magazine, and Northern & Shell, which produces *OK!* and *Hello!*.

Time's European portfolio has not previously threatened their market but *People* and *In Style* would be direct competitors.

It forms part of Time Warner's plan to bring a string of titles to Europe, including other celebrity and lifestyle titles such as *Entertainment Weekly* and the glossy weekly *Sports Illustrated*, which recently launched its first annual licensed British and German swimsuit editions. It is a daunting prospect – *People*, *Sports Illustrated* and *In Style* alone have a combined circulation of 7.7 million.

"We like Europe," says the chairman, president and chief executive of Time Inc. Don Logan.

"Within a year we expect to have at least one title operational and maybe half a dozen (over the next five years), depending on the success of the first one or two, and depending on the state of the economy."

"We've looked at *Sports Illustrated*, *People*, *In Style* and at adaptations for the local market. We're seriously considering all of our titles and we'll probably see something moving from the US in a relatively short time."

People magazine is the favourite to spearhead Time's European expansion plans. "People now has a very big staff here (in the UK) dating from Diana days, and it is expanding. I expect that will be the one it is looking at. I know they've costed a (European) *Sports Illustrated* before at least three times, but they've so far turned their back on it," says an insider.

The continuing success of the celebrity magazines market is another reason for launching *People* and *In Style* here.

The most recent audited sales figures, published in January, show that *Hello!* has a circulation of 374,585 in the UK, up 7 per cent, and Northern



Is Britain ready for an influx of swimwear and celebrities?

& Shell's *OK!* sells 226,504 weekly, up a whopping 87 per cent. *Now* has a circulation of 348,109.

Crucially, they are three of the few women's titles whose sales are heading in the right direction.

"I can't blame anyone for cashing in on the success of celebrity weeklies," says Jon Humphrey, advertising sales and development director of *Hello!*. "The challenge will be in

translating the format into something which is digestible for a European readership. *People* is successful in North America because there is effectively no national press, and it serves a very special role in that market. There is no equivalent, for example, to the *Daily Mail* in the States. It would be difficult for any organisation to find space for itself in an environment

such as the UK, which is already quite well served by the national press and which also has *Hello!*, *Now* and *OK!* in the market."

Translation of a successful US format into a competitive European market place is an issue Time is well aware of.

"We've done a significant amount of focus group work in Europe on our entertainment cluster, that is *People*,

In Style, *Who* (the Australian version of *People*) and *Entertainment Weekly*," says Richard Atkinson, president Europe, Middle East and Africa. "The challenge is getting equally strong stories about local personalities and getting the balance right."

Time has also been criticised for concentrating too much on its own backyard, with editorial in local editions too focused on the US.

It is only in the past 18 months that editorial control for the flagship title *Time*'s editions outside the US has moved from its New York headquarters to the local markets.

"We used to have endless frustration here (in the UK)," says the insider. "You would go to the editors with an idea that you couldn't get approved until two in the morning. It was a big logistical problem."

But the company has since devolved editorial power for *Time* to six world-wide regions that no longer need New York's approval before going to print, testimony to *Time*'s commitment to greater autonomy in local markets, which lies behind its expansion into Europe.

The £1m purchase of the painfully hip home interior title *Wallpaper* also signalled a change of tack and since Logan became chairman last year he has breathed an entrepreneurial spirit into the company. Under his stewardship, *Time Inc.*'s focus has moved to acquisitions and brand extensions and *Time* is also striking licensing deals.

"Pearson (Corporation) has done this sort of thing successfully with *Cosmopolitan*," says Wil Merritt, vice-president and publisher of *Time Atlantic*, the European edition of *Time* magazine. "But *Time* has never gotten into that before. We are looking at start-ups, acquisitions and licensing for the first time."

Ironically, then, the publisher whose flagship title *Time* coined the phrase "Euroclerosis" to describe the wasting disease that was hitting the continent in the early Nineties, should now be viewing Europe as the land of opportunity. Especially when many pundits are predicting a recession in the UK.

"It's more a case of Europhoria than Euroclerosis now," says Merritt. "There's a new focus on Europe and we've been developing the infrastructure for a while."

And *Time* is a force to be reckoned with. Last year its parent, *Time Warner*, had combined revenues of \$24.6bn (£13.4bn). *Time Inc.*'s magazine stable accounts for some 21 per cent of total advertising revenue for consumer magazines in the US.

More ominously for the UK celebrity titles, this week's US edition of *People* has 16-year-old Prince William on its cover. By the time of his 18th birthday he may well be inviting UK *People*'s photographers into his home at the expense of the likes of *Hello!*

Lucy Killgren is a writer for *Marketing Week* magazine

IF I RULED THE AIRWAVES

PETER BAZALGETTE, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF BAZAL, RELIVES THE INNOCENCE OF THE SIXTIES

THE FIRST three programmes in my schedule are from the line-up as it was on BBC1 on a Thursday night in the late Sixties, which I really used to love as a teenager. These three shows-in-a-row used to make it an absolutely top viewing night. Then I want to add my two favourite dramas – *Colditz* and *England Their England*.

The Sixties were an innocent and charming time, when 10 million people used to sit down and watch *Top Of The Pops* together. Pop music appealed to everyone then; it hadn't gone "niche". Nowadays, you have to be into either hip hop or jazz-funk or whatever.

And there are those memories of all those sweaty male teenagers ogling Pam's *People*. It was all wonderfully naïve – this was before the age of the pop video and, because they could not get all the stars, they had these very large-breasted blonde ladies dancing about in strange routines.

The other thing is that there is a multiplicity of entertainment possibilities for children nowadays, such as computer games, but there were very few then. That made *Top Of The Pops* an event. We were all into the music, and a lot of people watched it.

We're moving into multi-channel television now, where, if you want, you can programme your own pop music all night, but then it was spoon-fed to us. There was nothing else to watch but BBC1, BBC2 and ITV; it was a very different world.

The *Frost Report* just belongs between *Top Of The Pops* and *The Man From Uncle*. In those days, David Frost was a great satirist and was very funny rather than wanting to be a member of the establishment and a friend of all the well-known politicians, whom he soft-soaped these days. He wanted to take the piss out of them, and so it was a much rawer, rougher, younger, sharper David Frost.

I was quite into politics so I enjoyed all the piss-taking. It all sort of came out of *That Was The Week That Was* and was a very good comedy show.

My next choice, *The Man From Uncle*, was all about the fact that we knew the Soviets were villains. You had the Cold War world order and everybody knew their place; the Berlin Wall was up, and you knew who the goodies and the baddies were. International politics is a lot more confusing now.

And they were exciting, exotic stories; it was like James Bond every week, really. One episode that sticks in my mind is one in which Ilya Kuryachin got stuck in a farmer's grain silo, with one of those lovely infrared viewing devices – the programme was full of fantasy gadgets – though nowadays, I suppose, he would have been stuck in one of those European food mountains.

Colditz was a good example of classy, well-written drama, which was nevertheless highly

entertaining. I loved it because I was brought up on war comics, which is not PC any more: we are meant to be saying we love all Europeans, and how much we're looking forward to a common European currency.

Obviously, *Colditz* was set in the war, and was quite exciting. There was one particular edition where Michael Bryant, a marvellous Shakespearean actor, played an intern who decided he was going to escape by pretending to be mad.

He kept this up all the time, even in private with the other soldiers, and it gradually dawned on you that this might have gone too far. In the end, the Germans released him on compassionate grounds, and he went out gibbering, crying and dribbling.

It was a tragic story: you saw this man go from sane to insane under his own strength of will almost, and it was the most extraordinarily good piece of television acting.

And it does seem to me to be a metaphor for working in television now: you join TV sane, you are required to act as though you

are completely mad, and by the time you leave it, you are.

Finally, there's *England Their England*, which is a classic evocation of England before the war. It was adapted from a book by AG McDonald and is the story of this bunch of rather effete aesthetes and writers who set off from Fitzrovia down to a village in the country to play a game of cricket. When they get there, they are terrorised by this demon bowler – a massive blacksmith of enormous strength – and you can imagine how it goes on after that.

It is a very funny story, and when a story is extremely funny, you're nearly always disappointed when you see it realised as a film or TV drama. The unique thing about this was that it was as good: it was fantastically cast, and the music was all period dance-band stuff, fabulously done.

As I was drinking my late-night malt whisky, that would make me sink into dewy-eyed nostalgia.

INTERVIEW BY SCOTT HUGHES

Learning to meet your deadline – and live

Last year, 26 journalists were killed in the course of their work. Special training may help their colleagues survive. By Meg Carter

"MY FIRST job was to go to Bosnia. Someone I knew was going and asked me if I wanted to come. I did, for fun. We knew nothing – not even how we should behave at a checkpoint. I've since worked in Bosnia, Kosovo and Africa entirely at my own risk and uninsured. When going to Bosnia I was quoted £250 for insurance, per day – if you're only earning £200 it's obviously unfeasible."

The experience of freelance producer-cameraman Tim Exton is by no means untypical. A new initiative launched this week, however, aims to make the unpreparedness of many freelance journalists and cameramen and women working in war zones and other dangerous situations a thing of the past.

Skillset, the broadcast industry's national training organisation, has joined forces with the BBC, CNN and press freedom campaigner the Freedom Forum to offer freelance journalists, crews and photographers cut-price survival training and insurance. The scheme is long overdue, many believe.

The Freedom Forum's Journalist's Memorial, a steel and glass monument in Arlington, Virginia, commemorates the deaths of more than 1,000 journalists who have died on assignment or been murdered for what they wrote, photographed or

broadcast. Last year, 26 journalists were killed in the course of their work, according to figures published by Index on Censorship last month. And the number of those assaulted, arrested, detained or fined continues to grow.

"It's a growing concern with the number of nasty conflicts and the growing reliance by big news organisations on freelancers," says John Owen, Freedom Forum's European director. Trouble is, specialist training for survival in hostile environments and war zone insurance have been beyond the price range of many freelancers. "The majority of freelancers go into dangerous environments with no insurance cover," Tim Exton says. "Big networks often offer to insure them but a lot of people work for smaller organisations on the basis of 'if you get something, we might look at buying it when you return'."

It's cheaper for a media organisation not to commission a freelance in advance, he explains – which means they are under no obligation

to pay for the freelance's insurance. The downside comes should the freelance be injured, or worse. The media owner may have a moral obligation to support the victim adequately, but not all of them do.

All large news organisations now ensure that their staff are properly trained and fully insured when going to dangerous places in response to the growing number of kidnappings, injuries and killings, including the recent death of the BBC's John Schofield in Croatia. Two specialist courses run by ex-Royal Marines instruct journalists on a range of survival topics, including first aid and military tactics – such as how to recognise whether the person pointing a gun at you is trained, the potential danger of the weapon concerned, and whether it is worth making a run for it.

A number of media owners – including the BBC, ITN, Reuters and CNN – extend this support to freelancers. However, many smaller broadcast organisations, newspapers and magazines have not

been so responsible, Owen says. "The common claim is that they use specialists who don't need it. Or that they don't use freelancers. Which is a red herring, as all use stringers."

Under the Skillset Initiative, broadcast and print freelancers will be able to take a "hostile environment training" course for £200 rather than the standard £1,000 fee. This will enable them to get a 30 per cent discount on insurance through underwriter RGB which offers freelance journalists and technicians taking a standard, annual insurance policy "hazardous zone" cover with premiums payable by the day.

"Universally, the industry has not been doing enough," believes Charles Hoff, the London bureau chief for CNN which is co-funding the new scheme. A number of freelancers are guilty of a casual attitude, he admits. "By their very definition they are free spirits – some believe they don't need it, others that they can't afford the time. There's still an element of machismo and a few cowboys who believe they're invincible."

But broadcasters and publishers also have a responsibility, he believes. "It's in all our interests to ensure the people we work with are properly covered and prepared. If my staff are trained it increases their risk to have amongst them someone



All in a day's work: Journalists are trained for war by former soldiers

Robin Mayes

who is not, and is a potential liability," Exton agrees. "My concern is not so much about getting the training – which I now have – but that the bugger next to me has it, too. A lot haven't, which is a worry. If I'm injured, I may be unconscious."

John Owen sees potential for ex-

tending the initiative. "Local journalists in places such as Kosovo have no access to either insurance or training and are paid so little they couldn't afford it anyway," he says. Freelancers must help themselves, he says. But media owners cannot shirk their responsibilities.

"The most immoral of all positions is: 'I won't pay for you to go, but if you get something I'll use it.' This encourages people with little experience to go for it," he says. "The moral stance is: 'It's too dangerous. I won't send you. Don't go, and if you do, I won't use it.'"

Handwritten signature or stamp at the bottom of the page.

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NEW FILMS

MOJO (15)

Director: Jez Butterworth
Starring: Aidan Gillen, Ian Hart, Ewen Bremner, Harold Pinter, Ricky Tomlinson
The Independent Recommends: right.
CW: Plaza, Warner Village West End

SLING BLADE (15)

Director: Billy Bob Thornton
Starring: Billy Bob Thornton, Robert Duvall
This intelligent and unsettling drama won its writer-director, Billy Bob Thornton, an Oscar for best adapted screenplay two years ago, but has only just reached our shores. Thornton also gives a performance of dazzling concentration as Carl, a mentally disabled man who is released into the outside world after spending his life in an institution. Despite his past, he is welcomed into the home of a young boy whom he befriends.

Although Thornton is free of the indulgences of most actors who are called upon to portray a disabled character, the film is prone to sanitising Carl's personality. As with the patients in *Awakenings*, he is denied any sexual impulses, with love limited to flowers and holding hands.

That aside, this is a compelling work dotted with surprising performances – not just from Thornton, but from the late J T Walsh as a fellow patient, and singer Dwight Yoakam as the one barrier between Carl and a harmonious life.

CW: Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket

KISS OR KILL (18)

Director: Bill Bennett
Starring: Frances O'Connor, Matt Day
Australian road movie-cum-serial-killer drama about a couple of scam merchants, one of whom may be a murderer. Pretentious in some places, it manages to be agreeably nasty in others.

CW: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

TOUCH (15)

Director: Paul Schrader
Starring: Skeet Ulrich, Christopher Walken
Paul Schrader's adaptation of Elmore Leonard's most unclassifiable novel turns a breezy satire into a rather heavy-handed investigation into religious conviction. Skeet Ulrich is an accidental saint who finds himself bleeding from stigmata and healing the disabled. A good supporting cast give the film some bounce – Christopher Walken as an unscrupulous promoter and Bridget Fonda as the woman who steals Ulrich's heart.

CW: Plaza, UCI Whiteleys

GURU IN SEVEN (18)

Director: Shari Grewal
Starring: Saeed Jaffrey, Jacqueline Pearce
A dismal British comedy which comes on like an Asian version of *Alfie*. A young chancer enters into an agreement to sleep with seven women in seven days in order to attain guru status.

CW: ABC Piccadilly, Virgin Trocadero

MAD CITY (15)

Director: Costa Gavras
Starring: Dustin Hoffman, John Travolta
The achievements of first-time director Billy Bob Thornton are especially heartening in a week which sees the release of *Mad City*, a despairingly simplistic work from the once inspiring film-maker Costa Gavras, who made *Z* and *State of Siege*.

Dustin Hoffman is the weaselly reporter who chances upon a hostage situation in a museum, where disgruntled ex-employee John Travolta has produced a gun in an effort to get his job back. As the dispute escalates into a crisis, the film itself descends into a series of reflex attacks on the moral bankruptcy of television and, by extension, the late 20th century.

CW: ABC Baker Street, Hammersmith Virgin, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Rd, Warner Village West End

Ryan Gilbey

GENERAL RELEASE

THE APOSTLE (12)

Director: Robert Duvall plunges into his role in a manner that is both terrifying and entrancing. West End: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square

THE BIG SWAP (18)

A drag, unconvincing and preachy drama about partner-swapping. West End: Plaza

CITY OF ANGELS (12)

Nicolas Cage plays an angel puzzling over whether or not to exchange his divinity for domestic bliss with a mortal woman (Meg Ryan). West End: ABC Baker St, ABC Tottenham Court Rd, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

DREAM WITH THE FISHES (18)

Take a suicidal loser preparing to throw himself off a bridge. Add a junkie with a month to live and give them a few months on the road together before an inevitable tearful farewell. Serve with a sick-bag at the ready. Perhaps it's the realisation that *Dream With The Fishes* could so easily have been a nightmare that makes its success seem refreshing and deserved. West End: Metro

GIRLS' NIGHT (15)

Shameless tearjerker with Brenda Blethyn as a cancer-suffering bingo winner who jets off to Las Vegas for a last-chance holiday with her sister-in-law (Julie Walters). CW: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

THE GIRL WITH BRAINS IN HER FEET (15)

Jaunty take on the rites-of-passage genre, set in Leicester in the 1970s. The lively script is complemented by the sparkling performance of Joanna Ward as the film's heroine. West End: Rio Cinema

GREASE (20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION) (PG)

Twentieth anniversary reissue of the nostalgic musical. What fun there can be had from a second viewing is mostly due to John Travolta's manic performance as the greased-up high-school heart-breaker. CW: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

KURT & COURTNEY (15)

Compulsive documentary investigating the death of Nirvana's Kurt Cobain and the conspiracy theories surrounding it. CW: Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Warner Village West End

THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE (15)

A mannered and vacuous dip into the life of the Beat poet Neal Cassidy, played by Thomas Jane. There's lots of fast cutting and theatrical lighting, but the film just amounts to the same old Beat clichés. West End: ABC Piccadilly

LIVE FLESH (18)

A novel by Ruth Rendell is the origin of Pedro Almodóvar's most accomplished film to date. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Gate Notting Hill, Curzon Minima, Odeon Camden Town, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street

LOVE AND DEATH ON LONG ISLAND (15)

Comedy, starring John Hurt and Jason Priestley, concerned with the relationship between art and life. Writer-director Richard Kwietniowski takes great care in tracing the areas where they overlap. CW: Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Gate Notting Hill, Metro, Renoir, Richmond Filmhouse, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Haymarket

MIMIC (15)

Mira Sorvino is a doctor who combats a virus that's sweeping New York by developing a rival that's sweeping New York by wiping out the original disease-carriers in this ingenious science-fiction-horror fable. CW: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MY SON THE FANATIC (15)

Hani Kureishi establishes an opposition between a Pakistani taxi driver and his son, who has his sights set on becoming a fundamentalist Muslim. West End: ABC Swiss Centre

THE OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION (15)

Romantic comedy in which Paul Rudd confounds Jennifer Aniston's dreams of weddings by turning out to be gay. CW: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

PALMETTO (15)

Harry Barber (Woody Harrelson) is the ex-con who gets mixed up with a pair of duplicitous women. CW: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

POINT BLANK (18)

Re-release of John Boorman's chilling existential thriller starring Lee Marvin. West End: Gate Notting Hill, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green

PONETTE (15)

French tale of a four-year-old girl (Violette Thivisol) whose mother dies in a car accident. Thivisol is superb, yet there's discomfort at watching one so young parade emotion this raw and primal. CW: Curzon Mayfair

THE REPLACEMENT KILLERS (18)

Executive-produced by Hong Kong action director John Woo, this is an attempt to launch the American career of his favourite star, Chow Yun-Fat. West End: Virgin Trocadero

SAVIOR (18)

Politically inept war film set in Bosnia. Dennis Quaid stars as a man who loses his family in a Paris bomb blast and avenges their deaths before becoming a hired killer. West End: Virgin Haymarket

SIX DAYS, SEVEN NIGHTS (12)

Implausibly contrived romantic comedy in which Harrison Ford plays a boozey pilot who crash-lands with a New York magazine editor (Anne Heche) on a remote island. CW: Barbican Screen, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

SOUL FOOD (15)

A black version of *Parenthood*, with all the attendant moralising, sentimentality and studied eccentricity which that implies. West End: Clapham Picture House, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero

STAR KID (PG)

Children's adventure about a young boy who's called upon to save the universe. What it lacks in budget it makes up for in imagination. West End: Hammersmith Virgin, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero

STIFF UPPER LIPS (15)

Spool of the Merchant/Ivory movies from one of the talents responsible for *Leon the Pig Farmer*. West End: Plaza, Virgin Chelsea

THE TASTE OF CHERRY (PG)

The joint winner of last year's Palme d'Or has taken a year to get a release over here, but thanks to highly naturalistic performances, it's a hypnotic and moving experience. West End: Renoir

THE WAR AT HOME (15)

Tale of a traumatised Vietnam veteran on his return home to Texas, adapted from James Duff's Broadway play, *Homefront*. CW: Plaza

THE WEDDING SINGER (12)

Unashamedly dumb but winning comedy about a romantic wedding singer (Adam Sandler) who falls for a waitress (Drew Barrymore). West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

Film Ryan Gilbey



and Ricky Tomlinson as a night club owner whose emotions fatally cloud his judgment. Most chilling is Harold Pinter as a paedophile gangster: the ugly menace of his own work infecting his astonishing performance.

On general release
Ma Vie en Rose is shot in jazzy pinks and blues and golds; sunlight streams through it. The story suggests an issue-of-the-week TV movie: young boy who longs to be a girl grapples with an intolerant world. But the result is a tender and wildly imaginative modern fairytale.

Phoenix, East Finchley (0181-441 6789) 2.15pm

Visual Art Richard Ingleby

THE FIRST EVER London exhibition of work by Lari Pittman (right), hailed by some as America's greatest living painter. I can't see it myself, but there's no denying that his crowded canvases have an impressive, if rather chaotic, energy. His subject is modern (mostly gay) life in Los Angeles – his method a kind of madcap amalgam of advertising graphics and abstract decoration.

Judge for yourself from today.

ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (0171-930 3617) from 15 Jul to 6 Sept

The Tate Gallery's western outpost celebrates its fifth birthday this summer with an exhibition of work by one of the survivors of the original St Ives scene. John Wells was 90 last year and has had a long and distinguished painting career, but, amazingly, this is the first time that he has been honoured with a solo show in a public gallery. About time too.

Tate Gallery St Ives, Portmeor Beach, St Ives, (01736 796543) to 1 Nov



Literature Judith Palmer

THE STORIES accumulated in Jeanette Winterson's (right) new collection, *The World and Other Places*, are patchy; the mad flights of fancy often trapped in heavy fog and unable to land. Forgive her though the self-indulgent posturing, and enjoy the fantastical splendour of her fairytale backdrops, as she reads extracts today.

Expect new developments in the field of animal painting inspired by her 13 tortoises with decorated shells, depicting, when lined up correctly, a moving and educational tableau of the Last Supper.

Dancehouse Theatre, Oxford Rd, Manchester (0161-832 1992) 7pm



CINEMA WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET

(0171-935 7772) @ Baker Street
Godzilla Thu 8.15pm Mad City 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm, 10.50pm
Sliding Doors 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm, 10.50pm
The Wedding Singer 6pm

ABC PANTON STREET

(0171-930 0631) @ Piccadilly Circus
As Good As It Gets 3pm, 5pm, 8pm
The Big Lebowski 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
Good Will Hunting 2.10pm, 5.15pm, 7.40pm, 9.15pm
Washington Square 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm

ABC PICCADILLY

(0171-437 3561) @ Piccadilly Circus
Guru In Seven 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm
Mrs Brown 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE

(0171-836 6279) @ Leicester Square
Leicester Square starring Lee Marvin
Kiss Or Kill 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm
Live Flesh 1.10pm, 3.25pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE

(0171-439 4470) @ Leicester Square
Circus
Deconstructing Harry 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Kundun 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm
Martha - Meet Frank, Daniel & Laurence 3.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm
My Son The Fanatic 1.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm
Shall We Dance? 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.40pm
Stiff Upper Lips 6.20pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD

(0171-436 6148) @ Tottenham Court Road
City Of Angels 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm
The Object Of My Affection 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm
The Wedding Singer 1.50pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm

BARBICAN SCREEN

(0171-582 7000) @ Barbican
Barbican
Love And Death On Long Island 6.15pm, 8.40pm, 10.50pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA

(0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Square
Love And Death On Long Island 2.35pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE

(0171-437 2242) @ Clapham Common
Girls' Night 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 7pm
Godzilla Thu 9.15pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm
Love And Death On Long Island 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm
Sliding Blade 7pm, 9.15pm

CURZON MAYFAIR

(0171-369 1720) @ Green Park
Titanic 2.30pm, 7.30pm

ELEPHANT & CASTLE CORONET

(0171-703 4968) @ Elephant & Castle
Deep Impact 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm
Godzilla Thu 5.45pm, 8.20pm
The Object Of My Affection 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm, 10.50pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE

(0171-437 1234) @ Leicester Square
The Apostle 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 12.40pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.40pm
Sliding Doors 1pm, 3.20pm, 5.40pm, 8pm

GATE NOTTING HILL

(0171-727 4043) @ Notting Hill Gate
Love And Death On Long Island 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN

(0870-9070718) @ Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm
Mad City 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 9pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 1pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
The Wedding Singer 2pm, 5.30pm, 8pm

METRO

(0171-437 0757) @ Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square
Love And Death On Long Island 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm
Ponette 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

CURZON MINEMA

(0171-369 1723) @ Knightsbridge Live
Flesh 3pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET

(0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill Gate
Six Days, Seven Nights 3pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN

(0181-315 4239) @ Camden Town
City Of Angels 12.45pm, 6.05pm
Kiss Or Kill 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
The Object Of My Affection 3.20pm, 8.45pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 12.15pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm
Sliding Blade 1.45pm, 5.15pm, 8.20pm
The Wedding Singer 12.05pm, 2.30pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm

ODEON HAYMARKET

(0181-315 4212) @ Piccadilly Circus
The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON

(0181-315 4214) @ High Street
Kensington
City Of Angels 7pm, 9.40pm
Godzilla Thu 6.15pm, 9.20pm
The Object Of My Affection 6.45pm, 9.20pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 7pm, 9.35pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH

(0181-315 4216) @ Marble Arch
City Of Angels 12.15pm, 3.05pm, 5.55pm, 8.45pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm
Mimic 12.25pm, 3.15pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm
The Object Of My Affection 12.25pm, 3.15pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm
Sliding Doors 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm

ODEON MEZZANINE

(0181-315 4215) @ Leicester Square
As Good As It Gets 4.15pm, 8.25pm
Lolita 5.40pm, 8.30pm
Martha - Meet Frank, Daniel & Laurence 6.50pm, 9.05pm
Point Blank 6.30pm, 8.55pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE

(0181-315 4230) @ Swiss Cottage
The Big Lebowski 12.45pm, 3.25pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm
City Of Angels 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.40pm
Point Blank 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm
Red Corner 12.50pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 1pm, 3.20pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
Sliding Doors 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm

ODEON WEST END

(0181-315 4221) @ Leicester Square
The Object Of My Affection 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

PHOENIX CINEMA

(0181-444 6789) @ East Finchley Live
Flesh 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm
Ma Vie En Rose 2.15pm

PLAZA

(0171-437 1234) @ Piccadilly Circus
Deep Impact 3.10pm, 8.30pm
Jackie Brown 4.15pm, 7.40pm
Mojo 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.20pm
Touch 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.15pm

RENOIR

(0171-437 4402) @ Russell Square
Love And Death On Long Island 2.35pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm
The Taste Of Cherry 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

RIO CINEMA

(0171-254 6677) @ Dalston Kingsland
Fly Away Home 4.15pm, Love And Death On Long Island 9.10pm
The Taste Of Cherry 6.45pm

RITZY CINEMA

(0171-736 1214) @ 33 Piccadilly
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.40pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.50pm
Kurt & Courtney 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.10pm
Live Flesh 7.05pm (+ Show) Edge Of Tomorrow: Love And Death On Long Island 1.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm
Shall We Dance? Oscar And Lucinda 4.05pm
Sliding Blade 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET

(0171-486 0036) @ Baker Street
Love And Death On Long Island 2.35pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm
The Object Of My Affection 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN

(0171-226 3520) @ Angel Court & Courtyard
3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL

(0171-438 3366) @ Belsize

KINGSTON
ABC OPTIONS (0870-902 0409) BR: Kingston Mingle 2.30pm, 8.20pm. The Object Of My Affection 5.40pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm. Sliding Doors 2.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm.

MUSWELL HILL
ODEON (0181-315 4217) BR: Highgate City Of Angels 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm. The Object Of My Affection 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm.

PECKHAM
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Rockham Rye City Of Angels 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm. Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm. Mad City 3.50pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.45pm, 9pm. Soul Food 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm.

PURLEY
ABC (0870-902 0407) BR: Purley The Object Of My Affection 5.40pm. Red Corner 8.20pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 5.10pm, 8.10pm. Sliding Doors 5.50pm, 8.40pm.

PURLEY
ABC (0870 902 0401) BR: Purley Bridge BR: Purley City Of Angels 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm. The Object Of My Affection 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm. The Wedding Singer 3.30pm, 8.30pm.

RICHMOND
ODEON STUDIO (0181-315 4218) BR: Richmond City Of Angels 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9pm. The Object Of My Affection 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm. Seven Nights 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm. The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.30pm.

ROMFORD
ABC (0870-902 0419) BR: Romford Godzilla Thu 8.10pm. Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.10pm, 6pm, 8.30pm. The Object Of My Affection 2.30pm, 5.35pm, 8.15pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 2.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm.

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (01708-729040) BR: Romford City Of Angels 12.40pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm. Deep Impact 12.15pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm. Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 12.30pm, 3pm, 6pm, 8.30pm. Mad City 12.50pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm. Mingle 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm. The Object Of My Affection 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm. Sliding Doors 1.30pm, 6.15pm. The Wedding Singer 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm.

SIDCUP
ABC (0541-555 131) BR: Sidcup Six Days, Seven Nights 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm. Sliding Doors 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.35pm.

STAPLES CORNER
VIRGIN (0870-907 0171) BR: Cuckfield City Of Angels 1.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm. Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm. Mad City 3pm, 6pm, 8.45pm. The Object Of My Affection 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 1.45pm, 4.45pm, 6.30pm, 9pm. The Wedding Singer 2pm, 5.20pm, 8pm.

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-902 0415) BR: Streatham Hill Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm. Mad City 2.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.45pm. Sliding Doors 2.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.45pm.

ODEON (0181-315 4219) BR: Streatham Hill Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm. Mad City 2.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.45pm. Sliding Doors 2.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.45pm.

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-902 0415) BR: Streatham Hill Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm. Mad City 2.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.45pm. Sliding Doors 2.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.45pm.

SUTTON
UCI 6 (0890-888 980) BR: Sutton-on-Avon As Good As Dead 6.45pm. City Of Angels 4.15pm, 9.15pm. Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm. Mad City 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm. Mingle 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm. Sliding Doors 3.45pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm.

TURNPIKE LANE
CORONET (0181-888 2519) BR: Turnpike Lane Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm. The Object Of My Affection 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm, 11.30pm.

UXBRIDGE
ODEON (01895-813 139) BR: Uxbridge Six Days, Seven Nights 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm. Sliding Doors 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm.

WALTHAMSTOW
ABC (0870-902 0424) BR: Walthamstow Central City Of Angels 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm. Mingle 3.50pm, 8.40pm. The Object Of My Affection 1.20pm, 6pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm.

WALTON ON THAMES
THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252825) BR: Walton on Thames Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.05pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm.

WELLS HALL
CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Eltham The Object Of My Affection 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm.

WILLESDEN
BELLEVUE (0181-830 0822) BR: Willesden Green Sliding Doors 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 9pm.

WIMBLEDON
ODEON (0181-315 4222) BR: Wimbledon City Of Angels 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm. Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm. The Object Of My Affection 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm. Sliding Doors 4pm, 8.45pm. The Wedding Singer 2pm, 6.45pm.

WOODFORD
ABC (0181-989 3483) BR: South Woodford City Of Angels 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm. The Object Of My Affection 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm.

WOOLWICH
CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm.

CINEMA

REPERTORY

LONDON
ICA The Mall SW1 (0171-930 3647/cc 0171-930 3647) Organ (NC) 2.30pm, 8.30pm. This Is Not An Exit: Bret Easton Ellis (NC) 5pm. Native (America) 7pm. Don't Look Back (NC) 9pm.

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-633 0274/cc 928 3232) Good Will Hunting (12) 2.30pm. Enter the Void (12) 2.30pm. Enter the Void (12) 2.30pm. Enter the Void (12) 2.30pm.

PEPSI IMAX The Trocadero, Piccadilly Circus W1 (0171-494 4153/cc 494 4153) Across the Sea of Time - A New York Adventure (3-D) (U) 11am, 1.05pm, 5.20pm. L5-City in Space (NC) 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm, 8.25pm. Everest (U) 3.20pm, 7.30pm.

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (0171-432 5181) The General (15) 10pm. Afterglow (15) 3.45pm. Wild Things (18) 6.15pm. Boogie Nights (18) 8.45pm.

RIO Kingsland High Street E9 (0171-254 6677) Fly Away Home (U) 4.15pm. The Tale Of Cheryl (PG) 6.45pm. Love And Death On Long Island (15) 9.10pm.

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road W6 (0181-237 1111/cc 420 0100) When The Cat's Away (15) 8.45pm. A Un Air De Famille 8.40pm.

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street, Bradford (0181-568 1176) City Of Angels (12) 4.45pm. Shift Upper Lips (15) 7pm. A Thousand Acres (15) 9pm.

BRIGHTON
DUKE OF YORK'S (01273-626261) Afterglow (15) 6.30pm. Sliding Blade (15) 3.45pm, 9pm. Some Like It Hot (U) 1.15pm.

BRISTOL
WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) The General (15) 6.30pm. Saint Cousin (15) 6pm. Love And Death On Long Island (15) 8.20pm. Shallow Grave (18) 6.05pm.

CARDIFF
CHAPPEL ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) Amistad (15) 6.15pm. Love And Death On Long Island (15) 7.30pm. My Son The Fanatic (15) 8pm.

CHICHESTER
NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243-786550) The Full Monty (15) 9pm. The Wedding Singer (12) 8.45pm. Good Will Hunting (15) 4pm.

IPSWICH
CINEMA FILM THEATRE (01473-215544) The Apostle (12) 6pm, 8.30pm. Wild Man Blues (12) 2.30pm. Empire Of The Sun (PG) 7pm.

NORWICH
CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) Great Expectations (15) 2.30pm, 8.15pm. The Man In Her Life (NC) 5.45pm.

PLYMOUTH
PLYMOUTH ARTS CENTRE (01752-206114) THE HANGING GARDEN (15) 8pm.

CINEMA

COUNTRYWIDE

BRISTOL
ARNOLFINI (0117-929 9191) Pansies (15) Side Story (PG).

CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (01273-831099) City Of Angels (12) Six Days, Seven Nights (12) Star Kid (PG) 101 Dalmatians (U) Kiss Or Kill (18) Grease 2 (18) Titanic (12) Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) (PG) Blues Brothers 2000 (PG) Wishmaster (18) Deep Impact (12) The Big Lebowski (18) Dark City (15) Anastasia (U) Mouse Hunt (PG) Sliding Doors (12) The Wedding Singer (12) Godzilla (PG) Gharwali Baharwal (PG) Mimic (15) The Object Of My Affection (15) Jurassic Park (PG) Ghulam (PG) Mad City (15).

ORPHEUS HENLEAZE (0117-962 1644) Godzilla (PG) Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) (PG) The Wedding Singer (12) Six Days, Seven Nights (12).

ODEON (0117-929 0882) Ulee's Gold (13) George Of The Jungle (U) Six Days, Seven Nights (12) The Object Of My Affection (15) Pansies (PG) Godzilla (PG) The Wedding Singer (12) Free Willy 3: The Rescue (U).

ABC WHITEHALLS ROAD (0117-973 3640) City Of Angels (12) Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) (PG) Mad City (15).

CANTERBURY
ABC (0541-555 1331) Mouse Hunt (PG) Six Days, Seven Nights (12) The Wedding Singer (12) Godzilla (PG) City Of Angels (12) Titanic (12) The Object Of My Affection (15) Sliding Doors (15).

THEATRE

WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today; times and prices for the week; running times include intervals. ● — Seats at all prices ● — Seats at some prices ● — Returns only. Matinees — (1) Sun; (2) Tue; (4) Wed; (5) Thu; (6) Fri; (7) Sat.

ART Richard Griffiths, Tony Haygarth, Malcolm Storry in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 867 1111) ● Leicester Square. Tue-Sat 8pm, mats Wed 3pm, Sat & Sun 5pm, £9.50-£27.50, 90 mins.

AS YOU LIKE IT Shakespeare's literary comedy contrasting the court and the natural world. The Globe New Globe Walk, SE1 (0171-401 9919) ● London Bridge. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends 8 Sep. £25-£20, cons available, 180 mins.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lush family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale. Dominion Theatre, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) ● Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, £17.50-£32.50, 150 mins.

BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical melodrama. Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) ● Leicester Square. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Thu 3pm, Sat 4pm, £10.50-£29.50, 165 mins.

BUDDY Musical biog-show tracing the brief life of Buddy Holly. Strand Theatre, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) ● Covent Garden/Charing Cross. Tue-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mats Sun 4pm, £6.75-£30, 160 mins.

CATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of T.S. Eliot's poems. New London Theatre, Park Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 404 4079) ● Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Tue & Sat 3pm, £12.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

CHICAGO Ruthie Henshall stars in this hit Broadway musical. Adelphi Theatre, Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055) ● Charing Cross. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, £16-£36 (incl booking fee), 130 mins.

CLOSER Superb study of contemporary sexual relationships from Dealer's Choice author Patrick Marber. Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) ● Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £5-£27.50, 140 mins.

THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (ABRIDGED) Reduced Shakespeare Company's keenly-paced theatrical history lesson. Criterion Theatre, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) ● Piccadilly Circus. Tue-Sun, £9.50-£20, 120 mins.

DR DOLITTLE Philip Schofield talks to the animals in this new stage adaptation featuring Jim Henson Puppets. Labatt's Apollo Hammersmith Theatre, Caroline Street, W6 (0171-416 6032) ● Hammersmith. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, £10-£32.50, 150 mins.

GREASE Marissa Dunlop stars in the stage version of the hit film. Cambridge Theatre, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080) ● Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £10-£30, 150 mins.

HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE Paula Vogel's drama about the incestuous relationship between a teenager and her uncle. Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) ● Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Thu & Sat 4pm, ends 8 Aug, £12-£16, cons available, 95 mins.

THE ICEMAN COMETH Kevin Spacey stars in Eugene O'Neill's classic testimony to the power of dreams. Old Vic, St. Dunstons Hill, E1 (0171-928 7616/cc 402 0000) BRV: Waterloo. Mon-Sat 7pm, mats Sat 1.30pm, ends 1 Aug, £5-£30, 180 mins.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christopher Cazenove and Kate O'Mara in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of Wilde's comedy. Albany Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 867 1111) ● Leicester Square. Wed 7.45pm, mats Thu 3pm, Sat 4pm, ends 22 Aug, £7.50-£29.50, 165 mins.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's widely-acclaimed production of JB Priestley's thriller. Garrick Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) ● Leicester Square. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, mats Wed 2.30pm, Sat 5pm, £10.50-£25, 110 mins.

KAT AND THE KINGS Musical set in 1950s Cape Town. Vaudeville Theatre, WC2 (0171-836 9987) BRV: Charing Cross. Mon-Sat 8pm, Fri-Sat 5.30pm & 8.30pm, ends 1 Aug, £5-£25.50, 130 mins.

A LETTER OF RESIGNATION Hugh Whitmore's play about the Prolume affair and political morality. Savoy Theatre, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888/cc 836 0479) ● Charing Cross/Entertainment. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed 3pm, Sat 4pm, £12.50-£25, 135 mins.

MAJOR BARBARA Jenna Redgrave and Peter Bowles star. Piccadilly Theatre, Denham Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) ● Piccadilly Circus. In rep, tonight 7.45pm, continuing, £8.50-£27.50, 180 mins.

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE Shakespeare's cross cultural comedy. The Globe New Globe Walk, SE1 (0171-401 9919) ● London Bridge. In rep, today 2pm, ends 19 Sep, £5-£25, cons available, 180 mins.

LES MISERABLES Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's masterpiece. Palace Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0909) ● Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thu & Sat 2.30pm, £7-£32.50, 195 mins.

MISS SAIGON Musical which retells the Madam Butterfly legend to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) ● Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £5.75-£32.50, 165 mins.

THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's whodunnit. St Martin's Theatre, West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) ● Leicester Square. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Tue 2.45pm, Sat 5pm, £9-£22, 135 mins.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING Debra Donnell directs Cheek by Jowl in a new production of Shakespeare's classic. Playhouse Theatre, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-539 4401/cc 316 4747) ● Embankment. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thu & Sat 2.30pm, ends 25 Jul, £10-£22, 120 mins.

THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD David Mamet's new play is directed by Patrick Marber. Royal Court Theatre (at the Duke of York's) St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000) ● Leicester Square/Charing Cross. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Sat 3.30pm, £5-£19.50, benches 10pm, Mon - all seats £5, 90 mins.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400/cc 344 4444) ● Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £10-£32.50, 150 mins.

POPCORN Lawrence Boswell directs Ben Elton's satire on cinema violence. Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) ● Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Wed 3pm, Sat 4pm, £6.50-£23.50, 150 mins.

THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND & BLACK COMEDY Double bill of drama from Tom Stoppard and Peter Schaffer, directed by Gregory Doran. Comedy Theatre, Finsbury Square, SW1 (0171-369 1731) ● Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £7.50-£27.50, 165 mins.

RENT Musical inspired by La Bonte and set in modern day New York. Shaftesbury Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-739 5393) ● Holborn/Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £12.50-£32.50, 160 mins.

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE ● OLIVER! Obnoxious Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic musical, featuring the song 'On Your Feet and in My Arms'. In rep, tonight 7.15pm, ends 3 Oct.

LYTTLETON: The London Cuckolds Ravenscroft's Restoration comedy. In rep, today 2.15pm & 7.30pm, ends 11 Aug, 195 mins.

COTTELOE Our lady Of Silgo Out Of Joint's latest production stars Siân Cusack. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends 8 Aug, 150 mins.

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FIRST CALL, LAST CALL

First Call

IT COULD GET tiresome, the trend for sepia-toned gang musicals which is sweeping the West End. However, fanatics who have been geared up by the re-release of Grease will be eager to mould their quiffs for West Side Story, celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Last seen in the West End 12 years ago, the retro-feel of the piece is balanced by giving the lead roles to three newcomers. Star watchers are pitching Katie Knight-Adams, who will play Maria, as a discovery for the millennium. Prince Edward Theatre, Old Compton Street, London W1 (0171-447 5400) 6 Oct - 9 Jan 1999.

Last Call

SHORTHAND descriptions of The Lo Fidelity All Stars' (right) brand of music include punk-paste, cut-and-paste and even pseudo-intellectual pastiche of big beat. Confused? As hinted in their aptly titled album <

TUESDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

SHENZHEN, IN China, has grown in less than 20 years from a town of 30,000 inhabitants to a city of more than three million. In the next 10 years, it will have been swallowed up by **The Greatest City on Earth** (11am R4) - a huge conurbation in the Pearl River Delta with a population of 40 million. In the first of two programmes, Jonathan Glancey's eyes bulge at the extraordinary

pace and scale of the development. Let the **Good Times Roll** (9pm R2) is a jolly celebration of the music of Louis Jordan, of Jumping Jive fame and the tunes include "Is You Is Or Is You Ain't My Baby". **Night Waves** (10.45pm R3) invites Richard Dawkins (right) to turn theatre reviewer, analysing Timberlake Wertenbaker's **After Darwin**.

ROBERT HANKS



Radio 1
(97.8-99.8MHz FM)
6.30 Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball. 9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Jayna Middlemiss. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Dave Pearce. 6.30 Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session. 8.30 Digital Update. 9.40 John Peel. 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs. 1.00 Charlie Jordan. 4.00 - 6.30 Clive Warren.

Radio 2
(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 John Dunn. 7.00 Carl Davis Classics. 8.00 Nigel Ogden. 9.00 The Louis Jordan Story. See **Pick of the Day** 10.00 Rodgers and Hart: A Thousand Songs. 10.30 Richard Allinson. 12.05 Steve Madden. 3.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester.

Radio 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
9.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks. 10.30 Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. 12.00 Proms Composer of the Week: Rameau. 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. 2.00 The BBC Orchestras. 4.00 Voices. 4.45 Music Machine. 5.00 In Tune. 7.30 Performance on 3. A concert given last Wednesday in the Pittville Pump Room. The Lindseys. Kurtage. Officially, Op 28. Janacek: String Quartet No 1 (Kreutzer Sonata). Beethoven: String Quartet in E minor, Op 59 No 2 (Rasumovsky).

9.00 Postscript. Four commissioned poems blending words and sound. 2: "Wire through the Heart" by Ken Smith. (R) 9.20 BBC Young Musicians 1998. With the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra/Martyn Brabbins. Introduced by Charles Hazlewood, James MacMillan and Judith Bingham. Nathan Rose: Salve Splendor. Karen Smith: Ears to the Ground. Thom Petty: Acousticaphobia. Fraser Maifland: Salve Splendor. Tom Young: Sinfonietta.

10.45 Night Waves. Richard Dawkins joins Richard Coles to discuss **After Darwin**, a new play by Timberlake Wertenbaker exploring the legacy of Darwin's theory of natural selection. Richard Coles profiles American artist Bruce Nauman in the light of a major new show focusing on his relationship with spoken, written and musical language. Bill Buford reports from New York, and the English Folk Dance and Song Society celebrates its centenary. See **Pick of the Day** 11.30 Jazz Notes. 12.00 Composers of the Week: Byrd and Tallis. (R) 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

Radio 4
(92.4-94.8MHz FM)
6.00 Today. 9.00 Unreliable Evidence. 9.30 You Probably Think This Song Is about You. 9.45 Serial: A Boy at the Hogarth Press. (R) 10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour. 11.00 NEWS: The Greatest City on Earth. See **Pick of the Day** 11.30 Dinner Ladies. (R) 12.00 NEWS: You and Yours. 12.57 Weather. 1.00 The World at One. 1.30 Tricks of the Trade. 2.00 NEWS: The Archers. 2.15 Afternoon Play: Hard Row to Porlock. (R) 3.00 NEWS: The Exchange (071) 580 4444. 3.30 A View with a Room. 3.45 Ways with Words.

4.00 NEWS: A Good Read. 4.30 Shop Talk. 5.00 PM. 5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 The Mark Steel Revolution. 7.00 NEWS: The Archers. 7.15 Front Row. Francine Stock chairs the live nightly arts programme. 7.45 Under One Roof: Schools Out. By Wendy Lee, based on the original story by Michele Hanson. Chloe's school career is over and everyone but Gillian is in holiday mood - she has to face up to summer and the terrors of her bikini line. With Paola Dionisotti, Edna Dore and Luisa Bradshaw-White. Director: Tabitha Pitts. (2/5) 8.00 NEWS: File on 4. Julian O'Halloran reports on major issues and important events at home and abroad. 8.40 In Touch. Peter White with news for the visually impaired. 9.00 NEWS: The Healers. BBC social affairs editor Niall Dickson reports on people who work in healthcare and considers how the pressures they work under affect the lot of patients. 2: 'The Health Manager'. 9.30 Unreliable Evidence. With the aid of expert guests, Clive Anderson - former barrister and grand inquisitor of the stars - cuts through the legal jargon to get to the heart of an issue which affects anyone who uses our cherished legal system.

10.00 The World Tonight. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Setting the World on Fire. Simon Russell Beale reads Angus Wilson's social comedy about postwar aristocracy, theatre, architecture and anarchy. Abridged by Neville Teller. (7/10) 11.00 The Two Dinnies. Another evening with Danny Fontaine and Danny De La Tour and their disturbing showbiz chums. Written and performed by Peter Serafinowicz and Lewis MacLeod. 11.30 Talking Pictures. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: Every Secret Thing. (R) 12.45 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

Radio 4 LW
(198kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines. Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament. **Radio 5 Live**
(693, 909kHz MW)
6.00 The Breakfast Programme. 9.00 Nicky Campbell. 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co. 4.00 Nationwide. 7.00 News Extra.

7.30 Any Sporting Questions? John Inverdale hosts 5 Lives' latest sporting debate. A panel of sporting celebrities, including the England cricket coach David Lloyd, take question from the studio audience in Blackpool. 9.00 Extra Time. Mark Steel and guests travel back to 1956 to remember the FA Cup fourth-round game between Fulham and Newcastle, one of the great football matches of the century. 10.00 Late Night Live. 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

Classic FM
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Michael Mappin. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Crook. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 - 9.01 Evening Concert. 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths. **Virgin Radio**
(1215, 1197-1260kHz MW)
10.58MHz FM)
7.00 Jonathan Ross. 10.00 Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Robin Banks/FM only Ray Cokes from 6.45pm. 7.30 Ray Cokes. 10.00 Mark Forrest. 2.00 Peter Poulton. 5.00 - 7.00 Jeremy Clark.

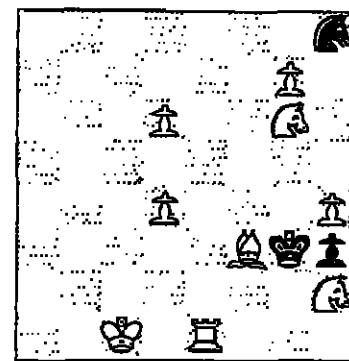
World Service
(198kHz LW)
1.00 Newdesk. 1.30 The Farming World. 1.45 Britain Today. 2.00 Newdesk. 2.30 Discovery. 3.00 Newdesk. 3.30 Meridian (Live). 4.00 World News. 4.05 World Business Report. 4.15 Sports Roundup. 4.30 The World Today (0430-0700)/Insight (SW 5875kHz only). 4.45 Off the Shelf: Candide (SW 5875kHz only). 5.30 Outlook (SW 7235kHz only). 5.55 - 6.30 Take Five (SW 7235kHz only). **Talk Radio**
6.30 New Talk Radio Breakfast Show. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 12.00 Lorraine Kelly. 2.00 Tommy Boyd. 4.00 Peter Deeley. 7.00 Anna Raeburn. 9.00 James Whale. 1.00 Ian Collins and the Creatures of the Night. 5.00 - 6.30 The Early Show with Bill Overton.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

WILLIAM HARTSTON

WHITE TO play and mate in three. This problem, by the 19th-century Swiss composer Friedrich Capraz, has only one line in its solution, but is still tricky to solve. 1.gxh8(Q) Kxh2 2.Qe5 is easy enough, but after 1...Kf2! White's rook is attacked and 2.Qe5 is stalemate. That might suggest playing 1.g8=Q, leaving the black knight alive to avoid stalemate - or does the composer have a different idea? See if you can solve it.



Answer: 1.gxh8=B! Kf2 2.Be5 Kxe1 3.Bg3 mate or 1...Kxh2 2.Be5 mate.

CREATIVITY

WILLIAM HARTSTON

"THE PRIMARY use for shirt pockets," Geoffrey Langley informs us, "is to cover up the holes worn in the garment by nipples during jogging." For non-joggers, Len Clarke recommends false pockets. "As they're mobile, they can be re-positioned anywhere on your shirt where there's a bad tear." If you put snipers in them, he says, they become pockets of resistance. Storing small sandwiches. Hidden heart-warmer. Identity kit. Red rose or carnation receptacle. Toothpick graveyard. Penalty shoot-out-practice net, with crumb for football. Old pieces of dandruff. Cross-lined patterns of small squares that are surplus to shirt. Karma reserves. Expense dispenser. Tilt bits (John O'Byrne writes acronyms).

"Why have I got such big breasts?" Sian Cole laments, bemoaning the uselessness of her shirt pockets. She thinks the pockets might be retained as decorative condoms. Jan Moor says that two breast pockets filled with laddered tights can enhance the curves of drag queens. "In hot weather," Michael Rubinstein advises, "stuff the shirt into the pocket for ease of conveyance, and go topless; in cold weather, ease yourself into the pocket and draw the shirt in after you for warmth and comfort."

Bruce Birchall finds them handy receptacles for salt and sugar when eating celery and rhubarb on picnics. He advises people who like doing headstands to stich their shirt pockets on upside down. He finds them convenient to keep inflatable dinghies in, "in case a nearby hydroelectric dam wall is breached as one takes one's morning con-

sistential". On he says, you could keep a pocket calculator in one to calculate the likelihood of the dam wall collapsing. Or, he says, you can fill them with sand and keep pet ostriches in them. Martin Brown points out that huge shirt pockets turned upside make excellent emergency parachutes if you fall out of an aeroplane. Andrew Duncan keeps a cigarette case in his "to deflect the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune". Mike Gifford says: "If you are confident of your flat stomach, you can allow friends to play snooker on your shirt, with pocket provided". A classic French pocket, he says, "is rather poche".

Maguy Higgs writes: "As every British schoolboy knows short pockets are for storage: Not for the means to blow your nose but for the spoils of forage." Barry Ecuyer finds them useful "so magicians can keep hares on their chest, or shy delegates can hide their name badges". Nigel Plevin recommends the adoption of a standard Euro-pocket "to give credence to the launch of any pocket-sized gadgets". He recommends attaching them to the insides of shirts to remove the need to iron. Lindsay Warden suggests a duvet cover for gerbils or an impromptu sick bag (which sounds hazardous for the gerbils). Norman Foster says they are handy parking places for cabers during the Highland Games.

Chambers Dictionary prizes to John O'Byrne, Mike Gifford and Barry Ecuyer. Next week, uses for Viagra. Meanwhile, this week sees the 21st anniversary of the invention of Superglue. All ideas for original uses for Superglue will be welcome at Creativity, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. Tubes of Superglue for the best replies.

PUZZLE

YESTERDAY, I mentioned an encounter with my amnesiac friend Professor Rebus, who had forgotten his cash card pin number, but knew that it was a four-digit number which could be multiplied by four by reversing its digits. The number, as you probably realised, was 2178 (2178 x 4 = 8712).

The next day, however, I met the poor old Prof looking bemused

again at another cash dispenser. "It's 2178", I told him. "No," he said. "That's the other card. This one is a different four-digit number, and all I remember is that it is also, when reversed, equals an integral multiple of itself." Can you help the professor out this time? Answer tomorrow.

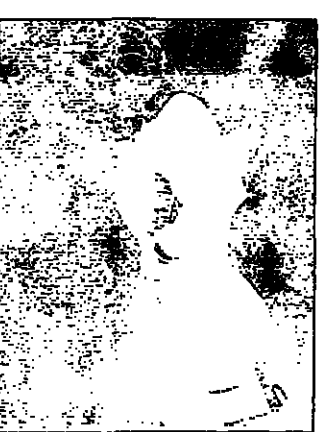
SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

BASTILLE DAY seems an appropriate point at which to celebrate highlights of the World Cup in France, courtesy of Football: World Cup, Best of (7pm Eurosport). Cover your eyes as David Beckham (right) momentarily loses the plot and performs the horizontal Charleston on his Argentinian opponent, cheer as little Michael Owen comes of age on the world stage and weep as David Batty volunteers to take a penalty. If those spot-kicks

weren't frightening enough, try Candyman (11.15pm Sky Movies Gold). Described by Variety as an "upper register horror item", Bernard Rose's gruesome concoction explores the legend of an educated slave, executed after impregnating a neighbourhood girl. Revenge, it turns out, is messy - possibly best avoided if you find shattering mirrors or hook-handed evisceration at all worrying.

PETER CONCHIE



(8848269). 9.00 Shipwreck! (8851733). 10.00 Shipwreck! (8854820). 11.00 Lotus Elise: Project M1:11 (2844085). 12.00 First Flights (701931). 12.30 Top Marcs (9531047). 1.00 Walking on Water (5634221). 2.00 Close! **Sky 1**
7.00 Tattooed Teen Fighters (41153). 7.30 Games World (151998). 7.45 Simpsons (59559). 8.15 Oprah (889874). 9.00 Hotel (95235). 9.30 Another World (50772). 11.00 Days of Our Lives (46608). 12.00 Married with Children (44801). 12.30 M*A*S*H (3025563). 12.55 Special K (8845227). 1.00 Gerardo (884230). 1.55 Special K (2242820). 2.00 Sally Jessy (554919). 2.55 Special K (207608). 3.00 Jenny Jones (310608). 3.55 Special K (9588559). 4.00 Oprah (80827). 5.00 Voyager (8806). 6.00 Nanny (8733). 6.30 Married with Children (8135). 7.00 Simpsons (4337). 7.30 Real TV (6269). 8.00 Speed (3085). 8.30 Coppers (5820). 9.00 Close Calls (29004). 9.30 The Extraordinary (2219). 11.00 Voyager (50801). 12.00 Nash Bridges (1977). 1.00 Long Play (5887467).

Sky Sports 1
7.00 Sports Centre (5764578). 7.45 High 5 (888801). 7.55 Survival of the Fittest (885172). 8.55 Sports Centre (470608). 9.30 Racing News (16917). 9.50 Aerobics (50199). 9.50 Week in Baseball (32443). 10.00 Embassy

World Eight-Ball Championships (52207). 12.00 Aerobics (10733). 12.30 Tales from the Premiership (43559). 1.00 European Golf Skills Challenge (78462). 3.00 Bowls Australia v Northern Ireland (67646). 5.00 Wrestling (8578). 6.00 Sports Centre (151). 6.30 Tales from the Premiership The Nerdy Men (511). 7.00 Sports Unlimited (56172). 8.00 Big Time Boxing (43608). 10.00 Sports Centre (882085). 10.45 Tales from the Premiership The Nerdy Men (426378). 10.45 European Golf Skills Challenge (85242). 12.15 Golf (793252). 12.45 Sports Centre (7541047). 1.00 Big Time Boxing (8221). 3.00 Fastrax (50080). 3.30 Tales from the Premiership (72781). 4.00 Sports Centre (2721047). 4.45 Close **Sky Sports 2**
7.30 Sports Centre (5552240). 7.45 Racing News (5432733). 8.15 Tales from the Premiership (274085). 8.45 Sports Centre (722068). 9.00 Fish (551714). 9.30 Fish TV (99174). 11.00 Bowls (9962578). 12.00 High 5 (7070269). 12.30 Survival of the Fittest (9446330). 1.00 All Creatures Great and Small (7820269). 2.00 Dallas (804391). 2.55 The Bill (5813331). 3.25 The Bill (9076085). 3.55 Dangerfield (5843627). 4.55 EastEnders (9988733). 5.30 Wotifabgroovy (9882511). 6.00 All Creatures Great and Small (1763373). 7.00 2point4 Children (328269). 7.40 Waiting for

Sky Sports 3
12.00 Wrestling (4323608). 1.00 Fish TV (654088). 1.30 Fish TV (4824117). 2.00 Sports Classics (8631453). 3.00 Entertainers (4099297). 3.30 Baseball (91575578). 4.00 V-Max (9154085). 4.30 Fastrax (9150268). 5.00 Cricket (9132730). 10.30 Fastrax (1277608). 11.00 Rugby Union (38142608). 11.30 Close **Eurosport**
7.30 Superbike (48202). 8.30 Tour de France (71424). 9.30 CART (56191). 11.00 Tour de France (767795). 2.00 Tour de France (71894). 4.30 Touring (72153). 5.30 Tractor Pulling (60882). 6.30 Four-Wheel Drive (7559). 7.00 World Cup 98. See **Pick of the Day** (72781). 7.30 Tour de France (60375). 11.00 Superbike (7540). 12.30 Close **U.S.**
7.00 Crossroads (2837795). 7.30 Neighbours (2159153). 7.55 EastEnders (375153). 8.30 Bill (2939240). 9.00 Bill (2953801). 9.30 Stay Lucky (551714). 10.30 Erno (5813331). 11.00 Dallas (842849). 11.55 Neighbours (8822004). 12.25 EastEnders (9136023). 1.00 All Creatures Great and Small (7820269). 2.00 Dallas (804391). 2.55 The Bill (5813331). 3.25 The Bill (9076085). 3.55 Dangerfield (5843627). 4.55 EastEnders (9988733). 5.30 Wotifabgroovy (9882511). 6.00 All Creatures Great and Small (1763373). 7.00 2point4 Children (328269). 7.40 Waiting for

God (9367608). 8.20 Dad's Army (876097). 9.00 Hotel (451555). 9.40 This Life (860191). 10.30 Shooting Stars (1833578). 11.00 The Bill (865172). 11.40 The Bill (3653191). 12.15 Life Story (880776). 2.00 Rock Gods to College (751931). 2.50 - 7.00 Shopping at Night (34024738).

Living
6.00 Tiny Living (2873917). 9.00 Rolonda (5845714). 9.50 Jerry Springer (937733). 10.40 The Young and the Restless (874076). 11.30 Brookside (5358240). 12.00 Jimmy's (9274820). 12.35 Animal Rescue (9320578). 1.00 Rescue 911 (1804375). 1.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (325882). 2.05 Rolonda (5845714). 2.55 Living It Up! (2221288). 3.55 Jerry Springer (2975530). 4.45 Tempest (8878004). 5.35 Ready, Steady, Cook (4379988). 6.30 Jerry Springer (937733). 7.00 Rescue 911 (2832268). 7.30 Myra (918482). 8.00 Side Effects (2506882). 9.00 Nothing Lasts Forever (2506882). 11.00 Sex Life Down Under (188424). 12.00 Close **TNT**
9.00 Film: Conagher (1991) (77782240). 11.00 Film: Wild Rivers (1971) (3636068). 1.15 Film: Escape from Fort Bravo (1953) (26958931). 2.55 Film: Westward the Women (1951) (36296347). 5.00 Close **Granada Plus**
6.00 The Box (18025849). 7.00 On the Buses (8845027). 7.30 Nearest and Dearest (884714). 8.00 The Fern Street Gang (219801). 8.30 Mind Your Language (219072). 9.00 Coronation St (219484). 9.30 Emmerdale (985725). 10.00 Jason King (8820988). 11.00 Hawaii Five-O (8833482). 12.00 Coronation St (2101288). 12.30 Emmerdale (5255761). 1.00 Up the Garden Path (884578). 1.30 The Army Game (606202). 2.00 Within These Walls (875917). 3.00 Jason King (2754443). 4.00 Hawaii Five-O (273578). 5.00 Hart to Hart (715653). 6.00 Emmerdale (985820). 6.30 Coronation St (540072). 7.00 Surgical Spirit (7158882). 7.30 The Fern Street Gang (5406356). 8.00 Dempsey and Makepeace (992172). 9.00 Classic Coronation Street (702462). 9.30 Hale and Pace (510171). 10.00 Comedians (2102917). 10.30 The Wheelchairs and Shunters' Social Club (218537). 11.00 As Grandpa Men & Motors until 2.00am (7674917). 12.00 Close

U.S.
7.00 Crossroads (2837795). 7.30 Neighbours (2159153). 7.55 EastEnders (375153). 8.30 Bill (2939240). 9.00 Bill (2953801). 9.30 Stay Lucky (551714). 10.30 Erno (5813331). 11.00 Dallas (842849). 11.55 Neighbours (8822004). 12.25 EastEnders (9136023). 1.00 All Creatures Great and Small (7820269). 2.00 Dallas (804391). 2.55 The Bill (5813331). 3.25 The Bill (9076085). 3.55 Dangerfield (5843627). 4.55 EastEnders (9988733). 5.30 Wotifabgroovy (9882511). 6.00 All Creatures Great and Small (1763373). 7.00 2point4 Children (328269). 7.40 Waiting for

Weather (62848). 5.55 Calendar (724530). 6.30 Tonight (511). 7.30 The Dates Day (799). 9.00 Calendar News (53135). 4.20 Joinfire (882252).

Tyne Tees
As Yorkshire except: 10.25 Local News (549958). 12.25 Local News (100443). 3.20 Local News (53288). 5.55 Local News (882240). 6.00 North East Tonight (40559). 10.30 Local News (53135).

S4C
As Channel 4 except: 12.00 Ricki Lake (6787). 12.30 Sesame St (23882). 1.00 Midsomer (18358). 1.30 Film: The Blue Lamp (46337). 3.00 Screaming Reels (5424). 4.30 Ricki Lake (608). 5.00 Pump: Und 5 (7269). 5.30 Countdown (288). 6.00 Newyddion 6 (52337). 6.30 Heno (10807). 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (894781). 7.25 Heddiu (50537). 8.00 Grav ar Gwydd (1653). 8.30 News (5238). 9.00 Why Men Don't Iron (795). 10.00 Bookends (23578). 10.35 Equinox (80806). 11.45 Tour de France (33333). 12.05 Earing (8836009). 12.35 Cybil (13747). 1.05 Spin City (619573). 1.35 Close

Westcountry
As Cornwall except: 10.20 Local News (7845608). 10.30 Other Side of Paradise (2878627). 12.15 Local News (2820988). 1.00 Emmerdale (574). 3.20 Local News (1513288). 6.00 Westcountry Live (10558). 7.30 Males Yourself at Home (179). 10.30 Local News (53135). 11.40 Baywatch Nights (631004). 12.45 Commando (830641). 1.45 Motor Sport (75738). 2.15 Film: Life in Danger (537215). 3.20 True Life Tales (977912). 3.50 Sport Classics (3556719). 4.45 Planet Rock (5950238). 4.40 Nightscreen (8821931). 5.00 Freeclassic (88931).

Yorkshire
As Cornwall except: 10.20 Local News (7845608). 10.30 Other Side of Paradise (2878627). 12.15 Local News (2820988). 1.00 Emmerdale (574). 3.20 Local News (1513288). 6.00 Westcountry Live (10558). 7.30 Males Yourself at Home (179). 10.30 Local News (53135). 11.40 Baywatch Nights (631004). 12.45 Commando (830641). 1.45 Motor Sport (75738). 2.15 Film: Life in Danger (537215). 3.20 True Life Tales (977912). 3.50 Sport Classics (3556719). 4.45 Planet Rock (5950238). 4.40 Nightscreen (8821931). 5.00 Freeclassic (88931).

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC 1
N Ireland 6.30 - 7.00 Newsline 6.30 Scotland 6.00 News 6.30 - 7.00 Reporting Scotland; Weather 6.30 - 9.00 The Hubs 6.30 - 7.00 Wales Today Wales 6.30 - 7.00 Wales Today **BBC 2**
Scotland 6.35 Up for It 9.35 - 10.00 The Record Wales 9.00 - 9.30 Disaster **Anglia**
As Carlton except: 10.20 Anglia News and Weather (848027). 10.25 Justice of the Land (725849). 11.25 Blue Heelers (544088). 12.20 Anglia News and Weather (100443). 1.00 Hope and Gloria (5714). 1.30 Home and Away (5451). 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (287337). 3.20 Anglia News (63288). 5.40 Shortland Street (591001). 6.00 Home and Away (5451). 6.25 Anglia News (63288). 7.30 Anglia News (63288). 7.55 Blue Heelers (544088). 8.25 Anglia News (63288). 8.50 Home and Away (5451). 9.00 Home and Away (5451). 9.25 Anglia News (63288). 10.00 Home and Away (5451). 10.25 Anglia News (63288). 10.50 Home and Away (5451). 11.00 Home and Away (5451). 11.25 Anglia News (63288). 11.50 Home and Away (5451). 12.00 Home and Away (5451). 12.25 Anglia News (63288). 12.50 Home and Away (5451). 1.00 Home and Away (5451). 1.25 Anglia News (63288). 1.50 Home and Away (5451). 2.00 Home and Away (5451). 2.25 Anglia News (63288). 2.50 Home and Away (5451). 3.00 Home and Away (5451). 3.25 Anglia News (63288). 3.50 Home and Away (5451). 4.00 Home and Away (5451). 4.25 Anglia News (63288). 4.50 Home and Away (5451). 5.00 Home and Away (5451). 5.25 Anglia News (63288). 5.50 Home and Away (5451). 6.00 Home and Away (5451). 6.25 Anglia News (63288). 6.50 Home and Away (5451). 7.00 Home and Away (5451). 7.25 Anglia News (63288). 7.50 Home and Away (5451). 8.00 Home and Away (5451). 8.25 Anglia News (63288). 8.50 Home and Away (5451). 9.00 Home and Away (5451). 9.25 Anglia News (63288). 9.50 Home and Away (5451). 10.00 Home and Away (5451). 10.25 Anglia News (63288). 10.50 Home and Away (5451). 11.00 Home and Away (5451). 11.25 Anglia News (63288). 11.50 Home and Away (5451). 12.00 Home and Away (5451). 12.25 Anglia News (63288). 12.50 Home and Away (5451). 1.00 Home and Away (5451). 1.25 Anglia News (63288). 1.50 Home and Away (5451). 2.00 Home and Away (5451). 2.25 Anglia News (63288). 2.50 Home and Away (5451). 3.00 Home and Away (5451). 3.25 Anglia News (63288). 3.50 Home and Away (5451). 4.00 Home and Away (5451). 4.25 Anglia News (63288). 4.50 Home and Away (5451). 5.00 Home and Away (5451). 5.25 Anglia News (63288). 5.50 Home and Away (5451). 6.00 Home and Away (5451). 6.25 Anglia News (63288). 6.50 Home and Away (5451). 7.00 Home and Away (5451). 7.25 Anglia News (63288). 7.50 Home and Away (5451). 8.00 Home and Away (5451). 8.25 Anglia News (63288). 8.50 Home and Away (5451). 9.00 Home and Away (5451). 9.25 Anglia News (63288). 9.50 Home and Away (5451). 10.00 Home and Away (5451). 10.25 Anglia News (63288). 10.50 Home and Away (5451). 11.00 Home and Away (5451). 11.25 Anglia News (63288). 11.50 Home and Away (5451). 12.00 Home and Away (5451). 12.25 Anglia News (63288). 12.50 Home and Away (5451). 1.00 Home and Away (5451). 1.25 Anglia News (63288). 1.50 Home and Away (5451). 2.00 Home and Away (5451). 2.25 Anglia News (63288). 2.50 Home and Away (5

